Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you think a mass protest would help expedite solutions to the current power crisis on the island?

Let your voice be heard!
Go to
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to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Execution Stay

The U.S. Supreme Court has declared that executions are too severe a punishment for raping children.

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U.S. Divers

More than 100 divers, including U.S. servicemen, joined in searching the inside of a Philippine ferry that capsized.

ASIA...Page 25

Knighthood

Salman Rushdie received a knighthood from Queen Elizabeth II on Wednesday.

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Governor cuts travel per diem rate of CPA. **PAGE 2**
San Vicente area to suffer four-hour outage. **PAGE 5**

'WesPac lobbying vs Pew monument breaks federal law'

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

RELATED NEWS

3 Marine monument petitions circulating. **PAGE 2**

Proponents of the Pew Charitable Trust's controversial bid to establish a national marine monument in the Commonwealth's northern islands are charging that federal staff tasked with managing fisheries have broken the law by lobbying against the proposal.

The Pew organization's plan for the monument has seen opposition from many local residents, lawmakers and Gov. Benigno Fitial. Critics of the pro-

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For some workers, wages are still at $3.05 an hour

Some employers allegedly skirting minimum wage rules

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

Hikes in the local minimum wage have put a strain on scores of businesses in the Commonwealth, yet labor activists report some are skirting the recent increases by secretly paying workers less than the law requires.

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OPENING RITES JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Traditional Carolinian dancers entertain the athletes competing in the 2008 Oceania Championship during the event's opening ceremony at the American Memorial Park amphitheater Wednesday.

Tourist found floating at beach dies

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Japanese male tourist who was found motionless on top of a beach mat that was floating beachside near the Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio Wednesday morning died at the hospital yesterday.

Toshitsugi Tanoue, 37, was pronounced dead at 2am by Dr. Leo Arcilla at the Commonwealth Health Center, according to the Department of Public Safety.

See TOURIST on Page 4

Admin: Several individuals funding review of complaint vs US govt

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Fitial administration remains vague about the funding source for the lawsuit it is preparing to file against the U.S. government over the new immigration law.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has hired a U.S.-based law firm to review the draft complaint and recommend whether there is any legal barrier to the effort to sue the federal government.

Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. said the legal review done by Jenner & Block is funded "by several individuals

See ADMIN on Page 4

Local

Governor cuts travel per diem rate of CPA

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Port employees traveling on public funds will now be paid the same per diem rates that apply to everyone else in the central government.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has issued an order canceling the per diem rate schedule that the Commonwealth Ports Authority sought for its employees in 2006.

Fitial said the administration wants consistency in the per diem rates paid by government agencies, including the ports authority.

The established per diem rates will apply with no exception, regardless of whether the CPA employee is a board member or in a management position, and whether the travel is funded by federal or CPA funds.

On Jan. 30, 2006, CPA proposed a new rate schedule for its employees. The authority said that higher per diem rates were needed because "current rates are no longer realistic and … rates conforming to those established by the Federal Aviation Administration more equitably cover costs incurred by employees of the Commonwealth Ports Authority during off-island travel."

Some of CPA's proposed per diem rates are double the rates set by the Department of Finance for government employees.

For instance, CPA employees traveling within the CNMI receive a per diem allowance of $175, while central government employees get $85.

CPA's per diem rate for Guam trips is $200, as opposed to the $175 paid by the Executive Branch. For trips to Palau, the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia, CPA's rate is $200 a day; the central government pays $150.

Ports employees receive $300 a day when traveling to Japan, "Far East" Asia, and Southeast Asia. Under the Finance Department's rate scale, the per diem rates are $275 for trips to Japan and $200 for trips to "Far East" Asia and Southeast Asia.

CPA is currently under a state of emergency because of its problems with meeting the requirements of its airport revenue bond. CPA management reports directly to the governor.

Be wise…
Visit us soon.

WHAT: Wise Women Village Project – FREE preventive health screening just for women
WHO: Indigenous or Micronesian women between the ages of 25-65 who have not had a pap test in 4 or more years
WHEN: Saturdays, March 15, 29 and April 05
WHERE: Mt. Carmel Cathedral Joeten Daidai Social Hall
TIME: 9am – 12 noon

Please do not eat or drink anything for 8 hours before your diabetes/cholesterol screening tests

Community partners: The Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, Ayuda Network Inc., Commonwealth Cancer Association, Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition, and the Mayor's Office of Saipan

DPH prevention program partners: Title X Family Planning Program, Breast & Cervical Cancer Program, Diabetes Prevention and Control Program

The Wise Women Village Project is part of the Wise Women Project, a preventive women's health project partially funded by the US DHHS Office on Women's Health ASIST2010 initiative

To learn more, please contact the Diabetes Prevention & Control Program at 664-4030.

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NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS RETIREMENT FUND

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA# 08-004

OPENING DATE: June 13, 2008 CLOSING DATE: June 30, 2008

Position: RECORDS SPECIALIST, SAIPAN

NATURE OF WORK: The employee will assist the Manager, Records & Statistics, with file maintenance of Fund members' records, supervision of technicians; provide members information pertaining to their records and assist with enrollment for Fund membership, and life and health insurance, in addition to performing such office tasks as answering the telephones and producing form letters.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Any combination equivalent to graduation from college with a degree in liberal arts plus one (1) year of experience in records management, or a high school graduate with five (5) years of progressive experience in office systems and procedures or records management. Knowledge of word processing and database management computer software is necessary.

COMPENSATION: Pay Level 23/01, or $16,651.510 to 23/12, or $27,437.440 per annum.

Interested individuals may pick up an application and the complete Position Description from the NMI Retirement Fund, Capitol Hill, Saipan. Interested applicants must submit their application, resume, educational credentials (high school/college degree) **and** police clearance at the Fund office no later than **5:00p.m., Monday, June 30, 2008**; application packages will be accepted by hand delivery, e-mail and/or postal mail. **Late or incomplete application packages will not be accepted**. Packages must be marked "**JVA# 08-004 - Confidential**" addressed to the following:

Mark Aguon, Administrator
NMI Retirement Fund
P.O. Box 501247
Saipan, MP 96950-1247
E-mail: administrator01@nmiretirement.com

US Army, NMI to ink community covenant

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Army and local officials will formalize their support for the Commonwealth's soldiers, other service members, and their families by signing the Army Community Covenant next week.

The Covenant is "designed to develop and foster effective government and community partnership with the Army in improving the quality of life for soldiers, other servicemembers and their families both at the current duty station and as they transfer from state to state and deployment," according to information from the Army.

The Covenant is an Army initiative, and intended to be hosted and led by the community. It is a formal commitment of support by the sate and local community to the soldiers, other servicemembers in active duty, guard and reserve.

The document is being signed at every installation across the country.

The CNMI signing ceremony will be held on Saturday, July 5, 2008, starting at 10am, at the American Memorial Park amphitheater.

Key military officials will be present. These include Major General Stephen Tom, chief of staff of the U.S. Pacific Command in Hawaii; Rear Admiral William French, commander of the U.S. Forces Marianas; Brigadier General Alexander Kozlov, commander of the Army Reserve's 9th Regional Readiness Command, and Major John Q. Lizama, Theater Support Group Commander of the 9th Regional Readiness Command.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez, Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela, Rota Mayor Joseph S. Inos, Tinian Mayor Jose P. San Nicolas, and Northern Islands Mayor Valentin I. Taisacan are also expected to be at the ceremony.

Also invited to the signing are Jim Arenovski, Saipan Chamber of Commerce president, John Hirsh, American Red Cross-NMI Chapter executive director, Bishop Tomas Camacho, and Mariana Fajardo, commander of the local post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

A smaller signing ceremony will also be held on Sunday, July 13, 2008, at 11am at the Army Reserve Center. The soldiers and their families, and Kozlov will be in attendance.

From left to right is Tanya Fleming Mesa, Esther Fleming, Edward Manibusan, Major Carl Cruz, 1st Sgt. Eugene Santos, Mariano Fajardo, and Ruth Coleman during the press conference held yesterday morning at the Army Reserve.

JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ

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ADMIN

From Page 1

interested in a careful and professional independent assessment of the litigation alternative."

Reyes ducked requests to name those individuals, and suggested that the law firm may be working without a formal contract. Asked whether the governor is helping to pay the law firm, Reyes replied, "I do not have a copy of any such contract, if there is one yet."

However, he said that public funds will be used to pay for the lawsuit if the government files it.

"We are still in a very preliminary stage," said Reyes. "If the governor decides to file a complaint after receiving the report from the outside lawyers, he will then be prepared to estimate the projected cost of the litigation through the preliminary injunction stage and seek the support of the Legislature."

Lawmakers and community leaders have expressed concern about the cost of suing the federal government. They say the Commonwealth cannot afford to pay for a lawsuit, given its dwindling resources.

But Reyes said the expense is a secondary issue. "All they care about is the cost. But the CNMI economy is at stake here. That is a cause worth fighting for," he said.

In his television address on Tuesday evening, Fitial cited legal and economic issues as his reasons for pursuing litigation over the immigration "federalization" law.

He said the damaging effects of the immigration law are starting to show. According to him, the cap on the level of foreign workers currently in effect has already made it difficult to get needed laborers for major construction projects on the islands. Potential foreign investors have withdrawn because they are unsure if they can get adequate workforce.

He also said that 20,000 foreign workers, and their families, could be deported from the Commonwealth by Dec. 31, 2014 or some other year if the U.S. Secretary of Labor grants an extension to the transition period. Such deportation, according to Fitial, would cut the CNMI's economic output by at least 50 percent, and that would, in turn, increase out-migration by local residents to the mainland United States.

He also predicted a decrease in the total population from its present 60,000 to about 35,000, calling it "a drastic reshaping of the entire community with very troubling social, economic, and political consequences."

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
COMMONWEALTH LAW REVISION COMMISSION
CNMI Judicial Branch

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Judicial Branch announces the position of Executive Director of the Commonwealth Law Revision Commission.

BACKGROUND: The Commonwealth Law Revision Commission is a judicial branch agency primarily responsible for codifying CNMI statutes and regulations of a permanent nature, publishing in a reporter system the decisions of the Commonwealth judiciary, and making these laws available to the public.

NATURE OF WORK: The Director will be responsible for revising and publishing the Commonwealth Code and NMI Administrative Code in print and digital formats; publishing, headnoting, and digesting Commonwealth court decisions in the established CNMI case reporter system in print and digital formats; contracting for printing of the Codes and Reporters and related publications in paper and electronic media; directly hiring, managing, and supervising professional, clerical and other staff as may be deemed necessary to assist the Commission in performing its duties and functions; managing and overseeing daily office administrative operations, including personnel and fiscal management, procurement, contract negotiations, programs and project development, public relations, and related work; formulating, preparing, and analyzing the commission's annual operating budget; coordinating a minimum of two board of director meetings a year to report on office operations and activities; and maintaining the Commission's website at www.cnmilaw.org.

QUALIFICATIONS: At a minimum, the Director should hold a juris doctor degree from an accredited United States institution, have two years general managerial/supervisory experience, be detail oriented, and possess a firm understanding of the rules of grammar and punctuation. Preference will be given to an applicant who has prior codification experience, knowledge of the principles of government budgetary processes, personnel management, contract procedures, and the political processes.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This is a full-time, ungraded position appointed and served at the pleasure of the Chief Justice of the CNMI Supreme Court/Law Revision Commission Chairman. Salary is commensurable with education and experience.

INTERESTED PERSONS should provide a cover letter, resume, and application to Naomi Lujan-Gonzales, Executive Director of the Commonwealth Law Revision Commission. The mentioned documents can be delivered to the Commission office at the Guma' Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice, Susupe, Saipan, or mailed to P.O. Box 502179, Saipan MP 96950, or faxed to (670) 236-9897. For additional information about this position, visit www.cnmilaw.org or call (670) 236-9820.

CLOSING DATE for application to this position is 12:00 noon on July 8, 2008, thus all required documents must be received by 12:00 noon on July 8, 2008, no exceptions.

TOURIST

From Page 1

"For now, police have classified the incident as a dead person case. This case is still under investigation," DPS spokesperson Lei Ogumoro said.

DPS initially received a report of a possible drowning incident at PIC.

Ogumoro said the police's preliminary investigation showed that two Japanese persons swimming at the beach near PIC first noticed the victim floating in the water on top of his beach mat. The victim was facing down and was motionless.

The witnesses then sought the help of a nearby lifeguard after noticing that the victim had white foam coming out of his mouth and nose.

The victim, later identified as Tanoue, was brought to shore where the lifeguard administered cardiopulmonary resuscitation on him.

Police and medics responded to the area and immediately brought Tanoue to CHC's Intensive Care Unit, where he was placed on life support. The following day, the doctor pronounced him dead.

Ogumoro said police are still looking into the cause of death.

Last March 10, a Vietnamese nun was found dead in the ocean between Saipan and Tinian after an extensive search conducted by different search and rescue teams. A day before her body was located, she was seen swimming with a friend at a beach near Aquarius Beach Tower in Chalan Kanoa.

On Feb. 14, Roberto R. Raquepo, a Filipino, drowned after he tried to retrieve his catch from the ocean while fishing at the cliff line near the Coral Ocean Point in Koblerville.

Last Jan. 21, a Palauan man and his companion were swept by a big wave while they were crab hunting at the cliff line of Marine Beach in Kagman. The Palauan was never found, but his companion managed to swim back to the cliff line.

FOR SOME

From Page 1

"We wish this wasn't happening but we know for a fact that it is," said Irene Tantiado, president of the Coalition of United Workers, a local labor group.

Informants have reported that at least three restaurants, a major construction company and a private security company on Saipan are paying workers less than the current minimum wage, she said, adding that it is likely many more violators of the law remain hidden.

Reports show that one popular Chinese restaurant on the island, for example, is still paying workers the $3.05 hourly wage that was standard in the Commonwealth until two years ago, she noted.

The minimum wage rose to $3.55 cents last year and again to $4.05 in May. Coupled with spikes in utility rates, the wage jumps have prompted a host of businesses to increase prices or cut expenses.

The drive to keep costs down has apparently spurred some dishonest employers to ignore the wage hike, she said, threatening workers—often foreign laborers—with termination if they reveal the violation and lying to regulators about what they are paying them.

The reluctance of many workers to report this abuse has proven one of the major obstacles in cracking down on it, according to Labor's deputy secretary Cinta Kaipat, who urged more workers to step forward.

"We welcome people to come and give us a chance to deal with this situation, she said.

The CNMI Department of Labor has an active enforcement effort to ensure local businesses are paying workers properly, according to Alfred Pangelinan, Labor's director of employment services. The effort includes investigations of businesses' financial documents and close scrutiny of their labor practices, he said.

Pangelinan added that some businesses are exempt from the wage increase if they earn less than $500,000 each year. However, many restaurant workers may not be covered under that exemption, he said, if their work involves charging customer credit cards because the law has a provision requiring the increase for any worker engaged in interstate commerce.

Labor was unable to provide data on the number of enforcement cases its staff has encountered involving businesses that have failed to pay the new wage rates.

Exposing any business that is ignoring the wage increases could depend on workers' willingness to blow the whistle, he said.

"As always, we encourage workers, if they're not earning $4.05 and believe they're suppose to be, to come forward," he said. "We want them to come in and report it to our office."

WESPAC

From Page 1

posal have said the monument will result in strict prohibitions on fishing and mining rights. Additionally, many say federal authority over the waters would be an intrusion on the Commonwealth's autonomy. However, supporters of the plan say it will preserve a sensitive ecosystem and will only enhance protections already in place for the area.

At issue in the complaints are efforts by staff with the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council, a federally funded organization, to rally opposition to the monument. WesPac staff have urged local government officials to stand against Pew's proposal, a violation of laws that bar federal employees from using government money to lobby, local Pew coordinator Angelo Villagomez said.

"The law is pretty clear, they can't lobby any government," Villagomez said.

To illustrate this, Villagomez pointed to a host of federal regulations and statutory language—including the Anti-Lobbying Act—which he believes WesPac staff have breached. "A complaint is coming," said Villagomez.

However, Villagomez declined to say who would file the complaint, adding only that one could be sent to the inspector general of the U.S. Department of Commerce, which has regulatory oversight of WesPac.

"These guys are breaking federal statutes," he said. "There's nothing wrong with them being against the monument as private citizens. But it's pretty apparent that they're not doing this as private citizens."

As evidence of the accusations against WesPac, Villagomez revealed an April 16 e-mail he has obtained—sent from WesPac staffer Joshua DeMello to Michael Tenorio of the CNMI Department of Fish and Wildlife—that appears to argue against the Pew plan in favor of a coordinated approach between the department and WesPac.

"Professionally, its hard to grasp because it's like they are stepping on our toes," DeMello writes, adding later that a better alternative to the Pew Trust's plan would be "to put in the same kind of rules but under our own processes (i.e. a moratorium type of deal) so that we know we can allow things to go on again, should the need arise (e.g. expansion or development of a fishery; need for food for CNMI, etc)."

In an interview, Jack Ogumoro, CNMI coordinator for WesPac, admitted to lobbying against the Pew monument when asked directly about his activities.

"I supported, yeah, I supported what the CNMI is saying and that's a 'no' to the Pew monument."

Ogumoro added that even though he works for WesPac, he is not a federal employee, which could exempt him from the anti-lobbying laws.

Villagomez, however, disputes that claim, saying that Ogumoro is subject to those rules as a WesPac staff member.

Nevertheless, Ogumoro dismissed the allegations against him. The environmentalists lodging these complaints, he said, "have nothing to say other than to spread rumors and divisions within this community."

Villagomez added that any accusations against WesPac would be easy to prove through a Freedom of Information Act request.

WesPac is already under two federal investigations in response to numerous complaints concerning WesPac and its executive director Kitty Simonds' use of federal funds, including the allegedly illegal lobbying of the Hawaii State Legislature.

San Vicente area to suffer four-hour outage

Some areas in San Vicente will experience a four-hour outage when the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. begins maintenance work on the electrical grid this Monday.

CUC acting power division manager Gary P. Camacho said the areas affected are Kamma Place, Hook Lane, Parasail Place, Batu Place, Gabba Place, and Hudda Drive.

To ensure safety for the power division's line crew, the work will require a scheduled power outage from 8:30am to 12:30pm.

"This is in addition to the June 28 through July 4, 2008 scheduled load shedding," Camacho said.

The acting manager said maintenance work is needed to replace many of the aged and deteriorating electrical distribution hardware materials on the power poles.

Camacho said the maintenance is to ensure safety and to have a more reliable and efficient electrical system.

He appealed for the community's understanding for this additional inconvenience.

The June 28 to July 4 lead shedding schedule will be implemented from 8am to 10pm. Next week's rotating outage schedule did not mention that San Vicente will be affected.

But CUC stated that San Vicente may be affected in the load shedding schedule should the power supply is not sufficient. ***(Ferdie dela Torre)***

LOAD SHEDDING SCHEDULE

Editor's Note: The following is the load shedding schedule for June 28 through July 4, 2008

8:00am-10:00am	**Feeder 2: Second Partial** Beach Road Garapan at Kristo Rai Church south to San Jose Intersection
10:00am-12:00pm	**Kiya 4: Second Partial** Mount Carmel and south to portions of Chalan Kanoa
12:00pm-2:00pm	**Kiya 1: Second Partial** CPA/Airport, portions of Koblerville, As Perdido
2:00pm-4:00pm	**Feeder 1: Second & Third Partial** 99 Cents Store and portions of Garapan and Upper Navy Hill **Feeder-3: Lateral Grid** Upper Gualo Rai, Taro Sue, Ace Hardware, Rem Center, PTI, McDonalds, XO Mart, H Mart
4:00pm-6:00pm	**Feeder-7: Entire Grid** Lower Base industrial area, north to Tanapag, Achugao, San Roque, As Matuis and Marpi
6:00pm-8:00pm	**Feeder 4-Second Partial** Capitol Hill, Kagman and portions of Papago (Botanical Garden)
8:00pm-10:00pm	**Kiya 2-Second Partial** Portions of Koblerville, As Gonno, San Antonio and Afetnas

The first partial in each of the respective feeder/kiya could be included to the schedule should the second partial be insufficient. In addition, water and wastewater services will also be affected in the respective areas as a result of the power outages.

CUC will make all efforts to keep to this schedule. However, such schedule may be modified in future public notice. Please be informed that such schedule may be altered to address particular emergencies when necessary. ***(CUC)***

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Bill seeks proportionate pension for retirees

The NMI Retirement Fund will be able to pay retirees only a portion of their pension under a bill to be introduced in the Senate today.

Currently, Retirement Fund members that are due for retirement cannot retire. The pension program has stopped processing applications because the government is not paying contributions.

The bill, which Sen. Victor Hocog is expected to file today, would allow the pension agency to pay members retirement benefits that are proportionate to what the government has contributed.

Thus, if the government has paid only 80 percent for a member, he or she will get only that much in benefits. The rest of the pension will be paid at a later time, when the government makes full contribution to the program.

The bill would also allow the Fund, on a case-by-case basis, to retire individual members if their employing agency makes a full payment for them, or if the Legislature appropriates the money.

The Retirement Fund had previously proposed the proportionate pension scheme. But this plan was stopped when the Legislature passed a law making it illegal for the Fund to pay less than the full benefits to retirees.

The Legislature said the proposed scheme was unconstitutional. The NMI Constitution, the lawmakers noted, "provides that membership in the Commonwealth retirement system is a contractual relationship and accrued benefits shall neither be diminished or impaired."

The CNMI government has stopped remitting employer contributions to the Fund since March 2006. Prior to that, the government had been paying only part of its contributions.

According to the Retirement Fund, as of Sept. 30, 2007, the CNMI government owed the pension program $132 million in employer contributions, excluding penalties and interest. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

Construction firm sues former lawmaker over house project

A construction company has sued former Rep. Janet Maratita for allegedly failing to pay $7,758 incurred for the renovation of her house in Dandan.

BMW Corp. and BMW Construction asked the Superior Court to order Maratita to pay damages plus pre-judgment interest and court costs.

Maratita didn't return a message from *Saipan Tribune* seeking comment.

Attorney S. Joshua Berger stated in the complaint that on Feb. 20, 2006, Maratita entered into a contract with BMW Construction for a house renovation project in the amount of $7,575.

On March 13, 2006, Berger said, Maratita entered into a second contract with the company, this time for the construction of a retaining wall and outside *pala-pala.*

"As part of these two contracts, defendant has purchased some materials for the construction work, and these amounts have been credited to the account," the lawyer said.

He said Maratita paid $4,575 toward the balance of the house renovation contract.

"Defendant still, however, owes a total of $7,758.20 on the remaining balance on both the contracts," said Berger, adding that Maratita is in breach of the contract.

BMW Construction owner Willie S. Wagan told *Saipan Tribune* that he had agreed to let the former congresswoman pay even $100 to $200 monthly.

Maratita, whom Wagan considers a friend, stopped paying more than a year ago.

Maratita, of Precinct 1, failed in her comeback bid to get another House seat in the November 2007 election. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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The ROTARY CLUB OF SAIPAN reserves the right to cancel ONLY the CAR or CASH RAFFLE and refund the money of those who have purchased tickets if a minimum of 5,000 tickets are not sold seven days prior to the scheduled event/drawing date. Prior notice will be posted should ONLY the raffle event be cancelled. The LAS VEGAS NIGHT EVENT will be held regardless.
All winners are required by law to file tax form W-2G at the CNMI Tax Office.
THANK YOU for your continued support!!!

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST BOARD OF TRUSTEES

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Marianas Public Land Trust have scheduled a Board of Trustees Regular Meeting to be continued on Monday, June 30, 2008 beginning at 6:30 PM on the 1st Floor of the Morgen Building, Suite #106; Saipan, MP.

Original Meeting Date: June 10, 2008

The following agenda is hereby established:

I PRELIMINARIES
- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda
- Adoption of Minutes

II CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
- Office Space Matters
- Administrative/Board Matters

III CONSULTANT REPORTS
- Legal Counsel Reports*
  - APLE 501
  - Home Loan Program
- Board Consultant Reports
  - Financial Statements – April 2008
  - Flash Reports – April 2008

IV OLD BUSINESS

V NEW BUSINESS

VI EXECUTIVE SESSION

At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees may be required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.

VII MISCELLANEOUS

VIII ADJOURNMENT

* It is anticipated that the following matters will be discussed under Executive Session in its entirety.

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority of the trustee governing body.

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ Alvaro A. Santos
Chairman, Board of Trustees

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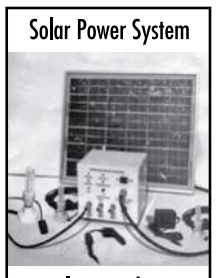
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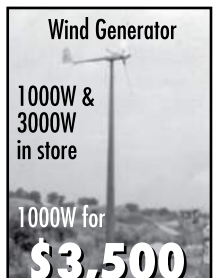
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LEGAL NOTICE

In re Trans Union Corp. Privacy Litigation, Case No. 00-CV-4729, MDL Docket No. 1350,
U.S. Dist. Ct., N. Dist. Illinois, Eastern Division, Judge Robert W. Gettleman

If you had a credit card, loan or credit account, you could get benefits from a class action settlement.

Para una notificación en Español, llamar o visitar nuestro website.

A settlement worth at least $75 million has been reached with Trans Union LLC and Acxiom Corporation ("Defendants") in a class action lawsuit that claims the Defendants violated state laws and the Fair Credit Reporting Act ("FCRA") when they sold lists containing personal and financial consumer information to third parties for marketing purposes. The settlement does not mean the Defendants violated any laws or did anything wrong. The Defendants deny any claims of wrongdoing in this case.

The United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois will have a hearing to decide whether to give final approval to the settlement, so that benefits can be issued. Those included in the class action, together called a "Class," may object to the settlement or ask to speak at the hearing. Eligible Class members may also sign up for credit monitoring or other benefits from the settlement. For more information, including a detailed notice, go to www.ListClassAction.com or call, toll-free, 1-866-416-3470.

Who's included?

The Court decided that the Class includes all consumers who had an open credit account or an open line of credit from a credit grantor (including, for instance automobile loans, bank credit cards, department store credit cards, other retail store credit cards, finance company loans, mortgage loans, and student loans) located in the United States anytime from January 1, 1987 to May 28, 2008.

What does the settlement provide?

The settlement will: (1) establish a $75 million Settlement Fund; (2) give Class members the option of selecting six or nine months of credit monitoring services; (3) donate $150,000 to non-profit organizations; (4) pay for settlements or judgments for damage claims related to lawsuits brought individually by Class members against the Defendants; (5) pay class counsels' attorneys' fees and their expenses; (6) pay the costs of notice and administering the settlement; and (7) distribute any money remaining (after deducting the costs for everything listed above) in the Settlement Fund to Class members who register for a payment or to non-profit organizations.

The six months of credit monitoring services (which retails for $59.75) include: (1) the ability to lock your credit report so third parties, such as lenders or other companies, will not be able to access your credit report without your consent (unless allowed by law); (2) unlimited daily access to your Trans Union credit report and credit score; and (3) credit monitoring with a 24-hour email credit notification service. The nine months of enhanced credit monitoring services (which retails for $115.50) includes all the services listed above, plus a suite of insurance scores and a mortgage simulator service. If you get the enhanced credit monitoring you will not be able to get a payment from the settlement or start an individual lawsuit. More details on all of the settlement benefits are available in the Settlement Agreement which can be obtained at www.ListClassAction.com or by calling, toll-free, 1-866-416-3470.

How do you ask for benefits?

To receive credit monitoring from the settlement you must go to www.ListClassAction.com and register by **September 24, 2008**. If you register, you will have six months after the Court grants final approval to the settlement and all appeals are resolved to activate your credit monitoring benefit. You may also register at the website or by mail until **September 24, 2008**, to receive a possible cash payment.

Your other rights.

Whether or not you seek any benefits being offered as part of this settlement, all Class members will not be able to participate in a class action or join multiple plaintiffs in a single action. You may object to the settlement by **August 22, 2008**. The detailed notice explains how to object. Your options for benefits provided by the settlement are as follow:

- **File an individual lawsuit against Defendant(s) for claims related to target marketing and prescreening:** You can also sign up for six months of credit monitoring.
- **Sign up for six months of credit monitoring services**: You can also register to receive a possible cash payment in the event of a cash distribution or file an individual lawsuit against the Defendants.
- **Sign up for nine months of enhanced credit monitoring services**: You will not receive any further benefits, including a cash payment, and you will not be able to file an individual lawsuit against the Defendants.
- **Register to receive a possible cash payment**: You can also sign up for six months of credit monitoring; however if you receive a cash payment, you cannot file an individual lawsuit against the Defendants.
- **Do Nothing**: You won't get any benefits. You will keep your right to sue the Defendants individually (see the detailed notice and Settlement Agreement for more information).

The Court will hold a hearing in this case on **September 10, 2008**, at Courtroom 1703, Everett McKinley Dirksen Building, 219 S. Dearborn St., Chicago, IL 60604, to consider whether to approve the settlement, and set a date to consider a request by Class Counsel for attorneys' fees of up to 25% of the Settlement Fund, and reimbursement of costs and expenses. Class Counsel will also request a payment of up to $3,750 for each of the Class Representatives who helped the lawyers on behalf of the whole Class. Class members may ask to appear and speak at the hearing at their own cost, but they don't have to. For more information, call, toll-free, 1-866-416-3470 or go to the website shown below.

www.ListClassAction.com **1-866-416-3470**

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Red flag up on six beach sites

The Division of Environment Quality has raised the red flag on the South Laulau Beach on Saipan and the Coral Garden Beach on Rota and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

In addition, DEQ also warned the public against swimming and fishing at the Wing Beach, DPW Channel Bridge, Hafa Adai Drainage, and Sugar Dock on Saipan.

The division said that samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria—enterococci—that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards.

These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns.

The division analyzed samples of marine recreational and storm drainage water from 12 locations on Rota Island this week. On Saipan, samples were taken from 12 east and south recreational beaches and 38 other coastal locations.

DEQ welcomes all inquiries as to the quality of the beach water. The public is encouraged to contact DEQ at 664-8500 with any questions concerning this matter. ***(DEQ)***

LISS to open TOEFL test center on June 29

Ladera International School of Saipan will open up its TOEFL iBT Test Center this June 29, 2008. The center has 10 computers that are already programmed for administering the TOEFL test through Educational Testing Services.

"We have been working with ETS and Thompson Prometrics over the last six months to offer the Test Of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) on island through our school," said LISS director Wayne Pangelinan. The test will be another reason to visit the CNMI.

"In most cases, students will come for a few days, stay in hotels, eat at restaurants and enjoy the island before and after taking the test," said Pangelinan.

To register for the test, registrants must go to www.ets.org and source "Northern Mariana Islands" in the country to avail of test dates that are held every other week on the LISS campus.

Edu-tourism, pioneered by LISS and supported by the CNMI government, has seen a major improvement in the last two years. "In July, we expect to see an influx of students coming in from Japan, Korea and Russia. We are ecstatic to know our marketing efforts in these countries through our partners are progressing. Approximately 150 students is expected to be on Saipan in July and August for the LISS summer program and regular school year," said Pangelinan.

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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 27, 2000

Under $30M loan deal, no money for NMRIF
The NMI Retirement Fund should not expect to collect payment soon from the Tenorio administration to settle portion of the $32 million in unpaid government contributions despite anticipated good cash flow brought about by a recent loan agreement. The agency has pinned its hopes on the $30 million secured by the government from the Bank of Guam, which it said could be used to partly meet the growing financial obligations.

Two major Saipan retailers closed shop
The turtle-paced recovery of the CNMI economy from the two-year currency crisis in Asia continues to take its toll on the local business community, forcing two major retailers to cease operations in the Northern Marianas in the last few weeks. While company officials remain mum on the reason that triggered the closure of the establishments on Saipan, business analysts said weaker consumer confidence and the sudden change in the spending behavior of tourists are major factors behind the slow rally of the local economy.

Saipan mayor not seeking re-election
Saipan Mayor Jose C. Sablan is no longer seeking reelection in the November 2001 elections due to health problems. In a letter to Joseph Reyes, chair of the CNMI Republican Party, Mayor Sablan said the success of his recent heart by-pass surgery makes it prudent that he takes his health and any medical advice into consideration before assuming any job.

June 27, 2001

More businesses closing down
The CNMI continues to feel the grip of hard economic times, as the islands witness the demise of more small business establishments due to the enduring contraction of visitor traffic figures. A big number of small retail shops in downtown Garapan have either looked around for and transferred to another location with cheaper rental rates, or completely stopped doing business to arrest further losses.

Hotels clip operational costs
Faced with an 11-month low in room occupancy rate, a significant number of hotels in the Northern Marianas have resorted to cost-cutting measures to make up for lost revenue. Hyatt Regency Saipan General Manager Mustafa Issa revealed that aside from placing a moratorium on new hires, which Hyatt began implementing when the economic crisis started, the hotel has also stopped replacing employees who have resigned.

CRM to reduce water activities
The Coastal Resource Management is planning to reduce watersports operations in the Northern Marianas. Despite this, CRM Acting Director Joaquin D. Salas said the plan will not affect the islands' tourism sector, which used to be the CNMI's premiere industry. "What we plan to do is decrease the number of operators," Salas said in an interview. This decision will depend, however, on the results of a study commissioned to determine the level of pollution on the islands' beaches, explained Salas.

June 27, 2002

CDA OKs tax break for Tinian Dynasty
The Commonwealth Development Authority granted Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino's application for a 10-year tax relief under the recently implemented Qualifying Certificate Program. Tinian Dynasty's application is now awaiting the approval of Gov. Juan N. Babauta, who is currently in an off-island meeting. CDA Board Chair Juan S. Tenorio said the development authority unanimously approved Tinian Dynasty's application during a meeting held Friday last week. The Board believes that the Gross Receipt Tax and Bar Tax exemptions would facilitate the further growth of Tinian Dynasty.

'Verizon sale becoming a political game'
If there is one thing that House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider and Sen. Ramon S. Guerrero agree on, it's in the belief that the Verizon Pacifica sale has become a political hot button. Guerrero said the sale of the telecommunications firm has become a political game for the CNMI government, probably because of the persons involved in the sale of Verizon.

A glimpse of the Chamorro Village
Chamorro advocate Noel Quitugua will seek the support of the CNMI government to advance the proposed development of the Chamorro Village, which is expected to preserve the islands' cultural heritage. Quitugua, who completed the miniature model of the Chamorro Village yesterday afternoon, will hold a public meeting tomorrow at 6pm at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library conference room. The meeting is aimed at presenting the Development of the Chamorro Village, which will also include the establishment of a nonprofit organization to oversee the proposed project.

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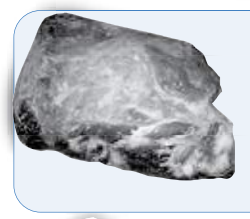

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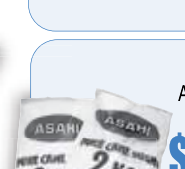
US Pork Spareribs 20lbs./case **$17.99** /cs.

New Zealand Mussels 1/2 Shell 2.2lb. **$5.99** /ea.

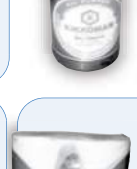


Asahi Sugar 4.4 lb. **$1.79** /ea.

Kikkoman Soy Sauce 1.6 liter **$3.99** /ea.

Hafa Adai Water 24/350ml. **$6.50** /cs.

ACE Diamonds Tuna in water 7oz. **99¢** /ea.



Soft N Gentle Bathroom Tissue 4 Roll **$1.99** /ea.

Zee Napkins 120 ct. **$2.29** /ea.

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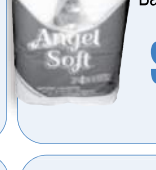

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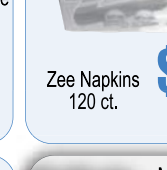

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press
Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Catwalking in

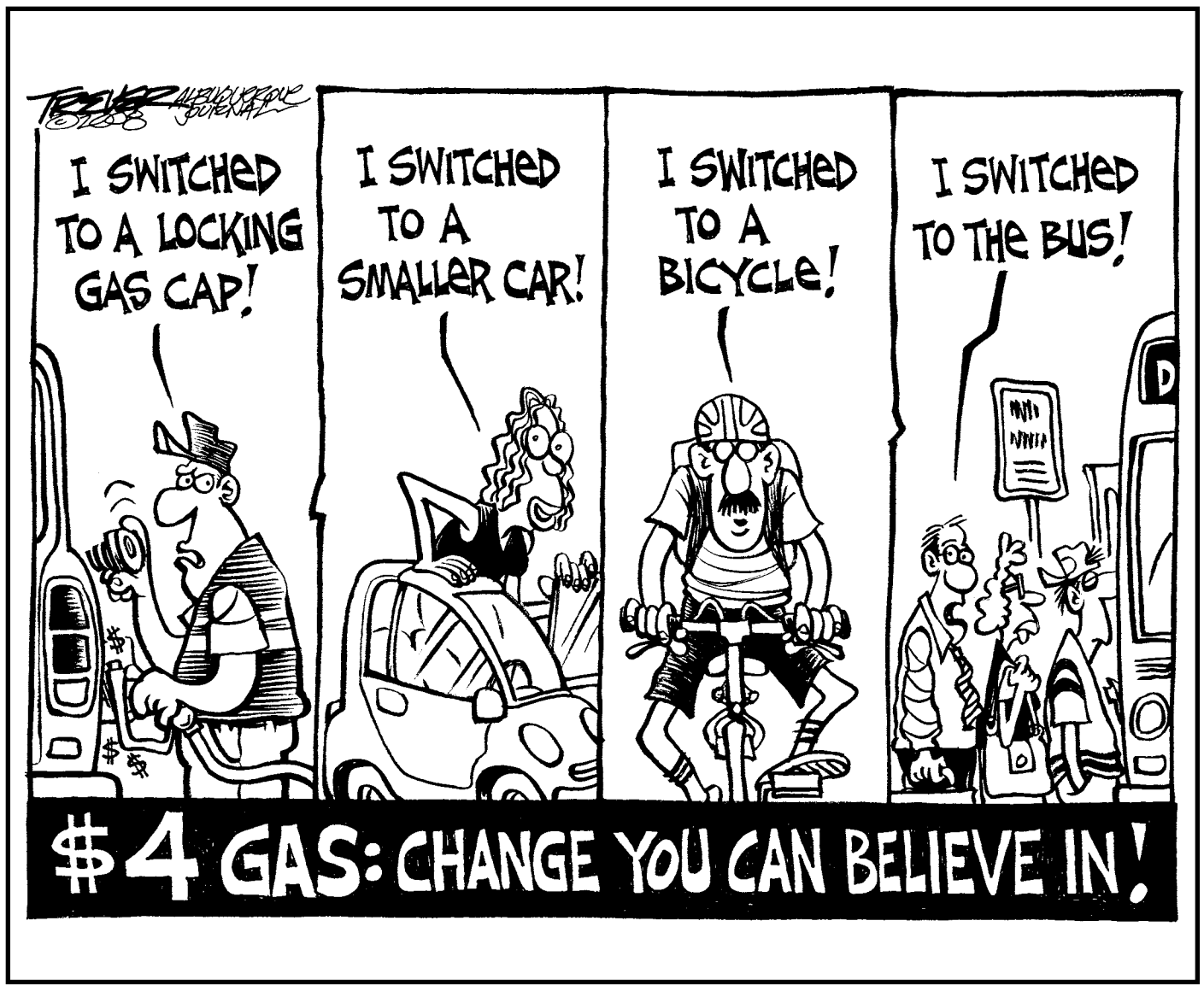
Unable to muster the political will last year to pass comprehensive immigration reform and address the dearth of unskilled and highly skilled labor that drags on our economy, Congress is now ready to act. Standing tall in the courage of their convictions, lawmakers are proposing to give supermodels their own category of work visa. This is especially bold because while easing the way for several hundred models to work during New York's Fashion Week, they must resolutely ignore the pleas of high-tech businesses seeking more visas for well-educated workers.

The number of H1-B visas awarded each year to skilled foreign employees is 65,000 (plus 20,000 for foreign graduates of U.S. universities), despite the desperate demand. On the first day of the application period this year, H1-B visa requests exceeded 120,000. Meanwhile, the shortage of workers has inspired employers to put down roots elsewhere. Last July, Microsoft Corp. announced it would open shop in Vancouver, British Columbia, where U.S. immigration policies won't hinder it from hiring the highly skilled people it needs.

Thankfully, Congress' reform efforts don't stop with models. Other bills in the pipeline would make it easier for athletes and entertainers to work in the United States. Our crops may go unpicked, but never again will Amy Winehouse have trouble getting a speedy visa. The key to amassing support for such legislation is to make the tough compromises necessary to ensure their minuscule social effect. Last year's behemoth reform bill tangled with border security, guest worker programs, a pathway to citizenship—far too controversial. Now, even Rep. Dan Lungren, R-Calif., who sponsored a bill to deny citizenship to babies born to illegal immigrants, is backing the bill giving the Department of Homeland Security 30 days to process visas for entertainers.

If, however, Congress does give—shall we call them catwalk engineers?—their own visa category, they will no longer have to compete with computer wizards for H1-Bs. That could free up to 1,000 slots for high tech. We'll take them any way we can get them.

(c) 2008, Los Angeles Times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Emergency electrons

By ED STEPHENS

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.

I'm not up for thinking about big, broad problems this week. No, sometimes, you've got to concentrate on the immediately solvable things. The little things.

So with CUC's chronic blackouts in mind, I decided to provide an update to my March 2, 2007 column, "Computing in the dark." Back then, I looked at a product made by Xentrex, called the XPower Pocket Inverter 100. You plug the inverter into your car's cigarette lighter (or power port if it has one), and, presto-chango, it converts 12 volts DC (car voltage) into 120 volts AC (normal appliance voltage). Yep, just the thing for blackouts, when you absolutely, positively, need to get some work done on your notebook computer.

It's a sleek, solid, well-designed thing, about the size of a small paperback book. It has worked well for over a year now, but, with a mere 80 watt (continuous rating) output, and just one AC socket, I've really wanted something with more power and another socket.

After all, if you've ever found yourself facing a pressing work deadline during a long blackout, or in other situations devoid of wall-power (e.g. camping), you'll also find that the one critical piece of gear you need will be just the one that you can't figure out how to power. Maybe your notebook computer's battery is dead, but that's just the start of things. You might need to use your scanner. Or your cell phone might need a charge. Or your digital camera battery might need a charge. Or that one, essential piece of data you need resides on an external hard drive that requires AC-power to work.

Anyway, I'm overflowing with electrons now, having bought a larger inverter, this one made by an outfit called Rhino. Their model RH150W carries a continuous rating of 150 watts, a peak rating of 300 watts, and has two AC sockets. It's pretty big, about the size of two peanut butter sandwiches stacked atop each other.

It's enough to make you long for the halçyon days of manual typewriters, carbon paper, Polaroid cameras, and paper ledgers.

Anyway, I'm overflowing with electrons now, having bought a larger inverter, this one made by an outfit called Rhino. Their model RH150W carries a continuous rating of 150 watts, a peak rating of 300 watts, and has two AC sockets. It's pretty big, about the size of two peanut butter sandwiches stacked atop each other.

In my wanderings, I found a box of these things for ridiculously cheap. Average prices are probably $30 or so.

In terms of power, 150 watts is a great place to be. That's more than enough juice to run my notebook computer, plus a cell phone, or a camera battery charger, or stuff like that.

The Rhino has a serious industrial look, and its blue metal case is lined with metal cooling ribs. I noted that these ribs have sharp edges, which can probably slice your car's upholstery if you're not careful.

Anyway, with the aircon blasting, Rush playing at full volume, and all that AC juice at my disposal, I'm a lean, mean, computing machine and digital darkroom. If you ever need to amortize a mortgage, forecast cash flow, or edit your yearbook photo in the smoking ruins of a post- apocalyptic world, you know who to call.

Besides, with the way that oil prices and the economy are going, we're all going to be living in our cars anyway, so we might as well get comfortable with that concept.

Yikes, that might be closer to the truth than I care to admit. I've known two guys who did just that. One lost his business and wound up living in a Chevrolet van. The other lost his mind and moved into a old school bus.

And then there's the guy, William Least Heat-Moon, who made a name for himself by living in a van and driving around in it. His book, *Blue Highways*, is one of those wistful and folksy looks at Americana via the time-honored road trip, and it has been a hit for decades. I'll bet if he did that gig today, he'd want an automobile inverter. You betcha'.

Meanwhile, you've surely noted the minor trend in print advertisements that feature the same, trite theme of a liberated yuppie merrily using a notebook computer on a tropical beach. Well, you won't catch me taking a computer into the sand, but a car can get me mighty close to it.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

At the bottom of the economic dev't ladder

By DAVID KHORRAM, M.D.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

David Khorram, MD is a board certified ophthalmologist and director of Marianas Eye Institute and the author of the book World Peace, a Blind Wife, and Gecko Tails. Comments and questions are welcome. Call 235-9090 or email him through www.MarianasEye.com. *Copyright © 2008 David Khorram*

How do we, who are having such bad economic times here, stack up compared to the rest of the world? Where are we on the world's economic development ladder? I don't know much about economics, but these questions were recently asked of me, so I thought I'd find out. Economic development, as it turns out has a fascinating history. Economist Jeffrey Sachs describes a four-step ladder as a way of viewing the world in terms of economic development. The first step, which I'll describe today, is not really a "step" because it's not even on the ladder. It is "extreme poverty."

Today one billion people—one sixth of the earth's population—live in extreme poverty. This "bottom billion" is so economically destitute that their very survival is at risk on a daily basis. Their lives are fragile. They live with drought, famine, starvation. Any small change can make the difference between life and death—a storm that wipes out meager crops, being struck with a simple disease but having no access to medicine to treat it, late delivery of food—all of theses sorts of threats are very real, and can mean death to entire populations living in extreme poverty. If there is any income that comes into the hands of those in extreme poverty, it is counted in pennies per day.

For much of human history, the vast majority of the world's population has lived in extreme poverty. Our ancestors struggled for their very survival, in a harsh world, with a fragile existence. Wealth, above extreme poverty, did not become accessible to common people until the mid 1700s. It is only since about 1750 that humanity has climbed onto the first rungs of the economic development ladder.

Extreme poverty does not exist in developed countries. It is a condition that afflicts swaths of the developing world. Seventy percent of the extreme poor live in Africa. Ten to 15 thousand of them die of preventable causes, like hunger, malaria, and dysentery every single day, day after day, year after year.

The tragedy of our times is that such dire circumstances affect one billion of our fellow men, women and children, in a world with such vast resources.

One of the goals of the United Nations is to wipe out extreme poverty by the year 2025, and to cut it in half by 2015. It requires commitment from wealthy nations, but I think it also requires awareness by the rest of humanity that such conditions exist and that solutions are available. The bottom billion require assistance to get on the economic ladder, to move from extreme poverty to just regular poverty. It is a small step, but the most important one in terms of the survival.

Governor Fitial: To sue or not to sue?

By ED PROPST
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Edwin Propst is the president of Pacific Digital Media and publisher of the MP Magazine.

A few nights ago, in a videotaped message, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial announced on John Gonzales' show that he will fight federalization and is in the process of filing a lawsuit against the U.S. government. I was shocked! Not because Governor Fitial announced he was going to sue the U.S., but because the power was actually still on at my house in Dandan! For quite some time, we had evening power outages every single night, from 6pm to 8pm (aside from the morning power outages we also experience daily). The one night Governor Fitial and his federalization fighters sponsor and appear on John Gonzales' show, we have no evening power outage at all. Hmmm, is that just a coincidence or did DCM finally get their act in gear?

We all knew Governor Fitial was going to sue the U.S. government over federalization because he stated he would do so in his State of the Commonwealth Address. I find it a bit disconcerting that Governor Fitial is going to sue the United States over federalization instead of putting all his resources together and working with our community to once and for all fix the problems at CUC. Shouldn't our power problems be his number one priority?

I hope you are aware that Executive Director Tony Muna admitted that DCM is in default of their contract for its failure to repair and rehabilitate Power Plant 1's engines within the time line of their contract. Director Muna adds that there is no penalty clause and that DCM will not be penalized or fined. I beg your pardon? No penalty clause? So the truth is, if it takes them 20 years, DCM can't and won't be fined? Can you please tell me who exactly came up with this contract? Perhaps the legislative oversight committee should review this contract carefully.

In the meantime, while Governor Fitial flies off to the United States to sue the U.S. government, we have other pressing issues that deserve greater attention. Here are only a few out of the dozens that come to my mind:

Continental's closure of its Saipan office effective July 16. No more Saipan-Manila flights puts patients requiring immediate surgery or care in jeopardy, as transportation time could translate to a patient living or dying. The average CNMI citizen cannot afford chartering a jet to Manila in the case of a medical emergency (but of course Governor Fitial can!). Governor Fitial, what are you doing to address this serious problem? And please do not tell us you will sue Continental.

Unstable, unaffordable power for businesses and residents. Businesses are shutting their doors every week because of the outrageous cost of power. Actually, businesses are also opening their doors because they can no longer afford to run their air conditioners. Can you tell us what you are doing to help businesses cope with the excessive cost of power? What about residents who can't afford power because you doubled it within one month? Will using CNMI taxpayers' money lower their power rates? Do you honestly think residents even care about federalization when they have no power in their homes? Geothermal power is a nice fantasy, but if rather than when it becomes a reality, it is still several years down the road. What do businesses and residents do in the meantime, besides "modifying" our lifestyles, as Tony Muna suggested? Trade in our cars for a carabao?

CUC's troubled desk. For the thousandth time, if you can afford to pay DCM millions of dollars to sit around and twiddle their thumbs while they wait for engine parts to arrive, and you can afford a $6 million contract for back-up generators that you should have ordered before you even started the DCM contract, why can't you spend a few thousand dollars on an automated answering system for CUC's trouble desk? Right now, all we get from CUC's trouble desk are busy signals, hang ups, or a clueless person on the other line telling us we should invest in a generator. In a small but effective effort to do something right at CUC, can you please put in an automated answering system, similar to the systems at Hollywood Theater, Megabyte, all major hotels, and dozens of other businesses? When engines fail (which seems to be a daily occurrence) and there is no power, the general public should be able to find out if the power will be out for two hours or two days. Have a person record the problem and update it every half hour on an automated answering system so we won't be left in the dark...literally. Isn't CUC's management capable of doing something positive for once?

'We all want change, but it is never going to happen unless you (YES, YOU!) are willing to do something about it. Write a letter, call or visit your representative, stage a rally, spread the word… just do something!'

$6 million for CUC's 'temporary' back-up generators. Since you already signed the contract to get back-up generators because DCM failed to live up to their contractual obligation, where exactly are you going to get $6 million? Perhaps you could penalize DCM and use that money to pay for the back-up generators. After all, it is because of DCM's failures that we need to get the back-up generators, isn't it? If you can't even afford an automated answering system, where are you going to find $6 million to fund the back-up generators? On another note, Dr. Tom Arkle states that we could purchase an 11 megawatt "like new" Mann generator from a company called LOHRMANN, and it would only cost $2.5 million. Not only is it cheaper, but we would also own it! If Governor Fitial does not want to buy another generator, then why not have Telesource provide the power to us instead of Aggreko? They are willing to do it for half of what Aggreko is charging! Can you please explain this to the general public, Mr. Tony Muna and Governor Fitial?

The Attorney General's failure to pursue and prosecute up to $3 million worth of corruption cases investigated and audited by OPA. Governor, what is stopping your Attorney General from prosecuting OPA's audited cases that involve almost $3 million of misused and abused funds? The CNMI sure could use that money. If it is because of political reasons or relations, can you just tell us? Perhaps it is time the CNMI look into electing an AG instead of having him/her appointed. Can a politically appointed AG truly be objective and free from the chains of politics? Judging from this Attorney General's performance (or non-performance), it sure doesn't seem like it.

Bottom line? We all want change, but it is never going to happen unless you (YES, YOU!) are willing to do something about it. Write a letter, call or visit your representative, stage a rally, spread the word...just do something! Tell everyone you know that you do not want Governor Fitial using any taxpayers' money to sue the United States, or call or write Governor Fitial directly! Remember when the CNMI hired stateside lobbyists to thwart federalization? Jack Abramoff and his corrupt syndicate received millions of dollars and certainly helped delay it, but he also was sent to prison, and the CNMI got a black eye from the bad publicity and our association with Abramoff. Is suing the United States really in our best interests? Isn't it a bit ironic that on one hand we've received billions in aid from the U.S., yet we have the audacity to threaten to sue the very country

See GOVERNOR on Page 14

Letter to the Editor

Jail time

Recent news reports confirm that the two former Malite attorneys, including the illustrious Ray Yana, are still in jail for failing to disgorge themselves of more than $1million in exorbitant attorney fees. I am writing to point out that in the many news reports detailing this judicial fiasco, one important fact remains largely unreported: namely, that the two attorneys are in jail because of former Judge Juan T. Lizama.

It was former Judge Juan T. Lizama who approved more than $1 million in legal fees for attorney Ray Yana and attorney Atalig. It was former Judge Lizama who approved their fees without carefully examining the vague and ridiculous billings submitted to the court.

In a June 8, 2006, *Saipan Tribune* article ('$1.1M attorneys' fees in Malite case reasonable'), former Judge Lizama was quoted for saying: "Insinuations that the services of Mr. Atalig and Mr. Yana are not worth the value agreed upon as part of the settlement imply a lack of respect for the judiciary and for fellow members of the Commonwealth Bar."

Lizama also said: "The value of these services is a matter between the attorney and the client. Strangers to the attorney's fee agreement have no business speculating on this value." Never mind that there are heirs and fiduciary duties involved in probate cases.

Later that month, on June 30, 2006, the *Saipan Tribune* reported that Lizama again defended his granting of $1.1 million in attorney fees from the Malite estate.

Question: If the two former Malite estate attorneys are now serving time in jail, why isn't former Judge Lizama, who approved such exorbitant fees, also in jail?

Instead of serving time in jail for approving such absurd legal fees, former Judge Lizama is free and clear, and running for the new Washington Delegate position.

Question: In view of these compromising facts, does Mr. Lizama's political candidacy imply a lack of respect for CNMI democracy and for the voters of the Commonwealth?"

Is this the man you want to vote for in November? Why not?

Charles P. Reyes Jr.
Gualo Rai, Saipan

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79	▲88° ▼80°

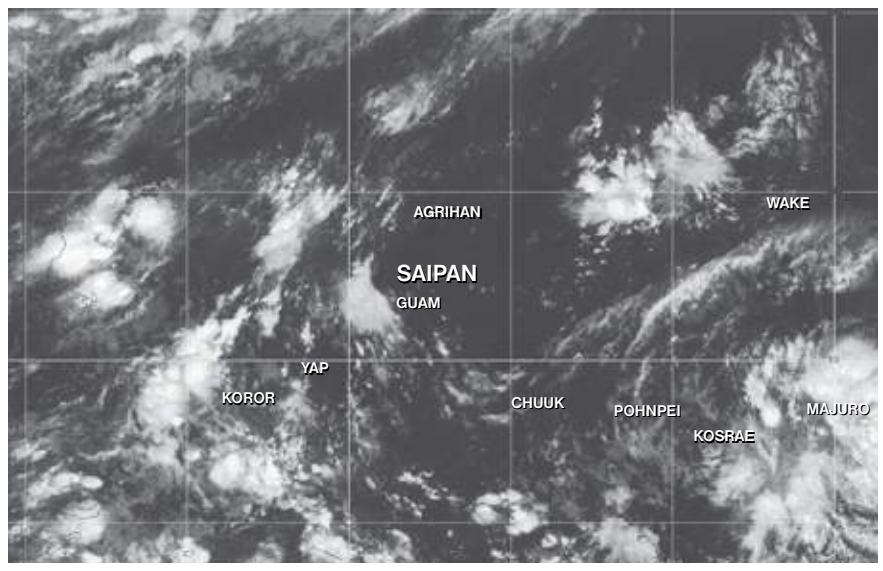
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲87	▼76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Yap	Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼73
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲88	▼77
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲81	▼74

Around The Globe

Auckland	Thunderstorms	▲54	▼50
Beijing	Showers	▲88	▼76
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼81
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲84	▼75
London	Cloudy	▲72	▼55
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲80	▼62
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲90	▼79
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲62	▼51
Miami	Thundershowers	▲90	▼78
New York	Thundershowers	▲90	▼73
Osaka	Partly Sunny	▲82	▼67
Paris	Partly Sunny	▲76	▼60
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲76	▼68
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲89	▼67
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼55
San Francisco	Sunny	▲73	▼57
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲86	▼66
Tokyo	Shower	▲80	▼70
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲94	▼73

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough extends northeastward from 1N130E to Koror at 7N134E then continues northward to 17N135E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found southwest of Koror between the equator and 10N from 130E to 134E. Trade-winds converging east of the trough are generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms west of the Marianas and over Yap between 10N and 17N from 136E to 145E. Another surface trough runs southward from 25N131E to 15N130E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found far northwest of Koror and Yap between 15N and 20N from 130E to 131E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae and the Marshall Islands between the equator and 10N from 151E to 180. An upper-level trough extends southwestward from 25N164E to 22N0157E. Divergence southeast of the trough is triggering scattered showers west of Wake Island between 18N and 22N from 160E to 164E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
1:30AM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
8:29AM Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
2:13PM Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
7:42PM Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:49AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:50AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	5:50AM	6:51 PM
Monday	5:50AM	6:51 PM
Tuesday	5:50AM	6:51 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:08AM	12:48PM
Saturday	12:49AM	1:44PM
Sunday	1:34AM	2:46PM
Monday	2:25AM	3:51PM
Tuesday	3:22AM	4:59PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota			
CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7
Saipan-Guam			
CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Narita			
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily via Nagoya
NW 075	4:45pm	7:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Osaka			
NW 083	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			
NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily
Saipan-Manila			
CO 895	4:45pm	6:35pm	6
CO 895	6:45pm	8:35pm	3
Saipan-Seoul			
OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7
Saipan-Busan			
OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7
Guam-Manila			
CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2,7
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7
Saipan-Guanzhou			
CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6
Guam-Hongkong			
CO 909	6:40pm	9:25pm	1,5
Guam-Rota			
CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan			
CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6
Guam-Saipan			
CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
Narita-Saipan			
NW 076	10:15am	2:55pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily via Nagoya
Osaka-Saipan			
NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
Nagoya-Saipan			
NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily
Manila-Saipan			
CO 890	9:15am	2:55pm	6
CO 890	11:45am	5:35pm	3
Seoul-Saipan			
OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
Busan-Saipan			
OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7
Manila-Guam			
CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2,7
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7
Guanzhou-Saipan			
CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5
Hongkong-Guam			
CO 910	10:35pm	5:15am+1	1,5
Rota-Guam			
CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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‘Funny’ finances and Aggreko

I read with astonishment that CUC has apparently signed a “contract” with a British based company (Aggreko) to rent 10 gen-sets for a combined total output of 10 megawatts. CUC intends to pay 5 cents per kwh generated and a rental of about $4 million for one year. If this isn’t a deal that should be thoroughly investigated by everyone in the CNMI, then I might as well just shut up and go hide in a corner someplace. Here’s a few facts I learned in just the last few hours:

We all know that Telesource has excess capacity on Tinian—most notably 10 megawatts of new capacity. We also know that Telesource offered to move those engines to Saipan and set them up as a temporary power relief system while Saipan’s own were repaired. That offer was roundly snubbed. Why?

We know that DCM and several other contractors have been hired on “sole source” contracts to the tune of some $10 million to “repair” existing gen-sets. And we know that these “repairs” have not even come close to being realized, even more than a month after expected completion. How did these contracts come into being? Was there no oversight? No penalty clauses? Sweetheart deals? What?

We all know that Saipan’s existing system is on the verge of complete collapse—imminent collapse. Is that why the rush to “repairs” and when that didn’t pan out, the rush to “rental?” If it wasn’t for the valiant efforts of an IPP at power plant 4, all of Saipan would have been in the dark by now.

We’ve all heard of the overdue payment from CUC to Telesource on Tinian—now it seems that there is an even bigger overdue payment to the IPP on Saipan, fully four months worth. This is astoundingly incompetent! What is CUC doing with its income? What kind of shell game are they playing?

Now, here’s the biggest shocker of all—to me. A quick search on the Internet, and a few well-placed phone calls (at my own expense) led to the discovery that Lohrmann, a giant German power plant manufacturer, has surplus gen-sets for sale. Just Google them and look at the lists. One in particular struck me. There is a set of fifteen 11 megawatt gen-sets up for sale at the mere price of $2.5 million each. These sets (Man B&W) were manufactured in 1994 and taken out of service in 2007. They were completely overhauled and refurbished this year and have zero operating hours since overhaul. They run on heavy or light oil. There are also many other gen-set choices for sale, but this one really caught my eye.

Now, what would you rather have: a rented set of 10 one megawatt gen-sets for one year at $4 million and 5 cents per kwh, or a purchased 10 megawatt gen-set for $2.5 million? This just seems like a no-brainer to me! In fact, it is so ridiculous that we could have (by now) purchased at least three of those 11 megawatt gen-sets at $2.5 million each and paid the relocation and installation cost of another $2.5 million for the same $10 million going for as yet unrealized repairs! We could have simply ripped out three of those larger engines awaiting “repair” and dropped in three like-new units and that would, my friends, yield an additional, and immediate, 33 megawatts of capacity—our own capacity.

This whole thing stinks to high heaven and I can only hope that all of you reading this will call it “funny” finances as well. Meanwhile our Governor (Nero) is off tilting at windmills (again) while the CNMI (Rome) burns to the ground. Legislature, it’s your turn; jump on this with all four feet—please!

Dr. Thomas D. Arkle Jr.,
San Jose, Tinian

An appeal for help

To: U.S. Department of Justice, Internal Revenue Services

We are writing on behalf of the legal non-resident workers, who are taxpayers in the US Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (Saipan, Tinian, Rota) to appeal to your office to investigate and take action on the disbursement of tax stimulus.

We have filed our federal income taxes for the fiscal year 2007 and we have reached the $3,000 minimum income requirement. However, until this time many of us have not received our stimulus check from the CNMI Treasury. The Federal Government has allotted $16.1 million for distribution of all taxpayers in the CNMI.

We request an investigation and explanation of the CNMI Department of Finance requiring non-resident workers to supply documents before they can receive their stimulus checks. We would like these waived so our checks can be distributed. Nonresident workers have been going back and forth to the CNMI office and are told that they are required to submit old passports from when they arrived here on this island, old entry permits, and other unnecessary documents that other taxpayers are not required to submit to receive their checks. We would like to know what the CNMI Department of Finance would do with the money they are withholding from the taxpaying nonresident workers?

We appeal to your office for investigate discriminatory procedures in the designated agency to expedite the release of all tax stimulus checks to qualified taxpayers. The nonresident workers are experiencing an economic crisis due to the inflated food prices, cost of electricity and gas, and other day-to-day living expenses combined with a minimum wage set far below the poverty level—$3.05 local and $4.05 federal minimum wage. We cannot even buy food and other basic necessities. Please help us avail of this aid from the Federal government as soon as possible.

Human Dignity Movement
Saipan, CNMI

GUANGDONG HARDWARE
GUANGDONG MILEI?
GUANGDONG BA ITO?
Liberation Day Promotion Sale
2*4*8 Regular $6.90 | 2*6*12 Utility regular $6.90
2*4*20 Regular $7.70 | 2*6*12 Utility treated $10.20
2*4*12 Utility regular $4.80 | 2*6*14 Utility regular $7.90
2*4*12 Utility treated $6.70 | 2*6*14 Utility treated $12.20
2*4*14 Utility regular $5.30 | 2*6*16 Utility regular $8.90
2*4*14 Utility treated $7.70 | 2*6*16 Utility treated $14.20
2*4*16 Utility regular $6.00 | 2*6*18 Utility regular $9.90
2*4*16 Utility treated $8.70 | 2*6*18 Utility treated $15.20
2*4*18 Utility regular $6.70 | 2*6*20 Utility regular $10.90
2*4*18 Utility treated $9.70 | 2*6*20 Utility treated $17.20
2*4*20 Utility regular $7.40 | 2*6*18 Dougalas regular $12.90
2*4*20 Utility treated $10.70 | 2*6*20 Dougalas Treated $18.90
Galvalume roof tin (Gauge 26) from Korea, better quality, long time no rusty
Plyform (5/8"): Red/Black-$25.90 • Phenolic Black-$29.90
Thin-Set Mortar on SALE: $9.00 Custom (c.cure), gray, from U.S. 50lbs/bag, Regular Price $9.80
OVERSIZED AND DAMAGED MAHOGANY LUMBERS 40% OFF
U.S. UTILITY LUMBERS Regular/Treated 2*6/2*8 25% OFF
HOLLOW BLOCKS (CMU) 4"-$0.50/pc • 6"-$0.60/pc • 8"-$0.70/pc
SPECTRUM PAINT ON SALE!
CEMENT, US STANDARD $5.95
Grout, 25 Lbs. $16.00
HENRY ADHESIVE 356 MULTI-PURPOSE $15.00/Gal
HENRY ADHESIVE 356 MULTI-PURPOSE $53.00/4Gals
HENRY ADHESIVE 430 VINYL TILE $14.00/Gal
HENRY ADHESIVE 314 CERAMIC TILE $48.00/4Gals
Special price for damaged items, from 15% to 50% off
Plywood 20% off | US lumber 20% off
Mahogany lumber 40% off | Roof tin 20% off
Metal stud/track $4/pc | Shower room 35% off
Door(louver/screen) 35% off | Window 35% off
White plywood $6.00/pc | Cement board $4/pc
Tie wire G20/G22 $0.4/lb | Downspout $8/pc
10' pvc white pipe 4" $12/pc | Square bar $4/pc
Ceiling tile 2'*4' $3.00/pc | Formica $5/pc
Rope $2/pc | Ceramic tile $0.3/pc
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SPECIALS OF THE WEEK
2004 RAV-4 4DR. 4WD
Auto, Beige, Stock: U07-007T
License: ACB-455
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Price: ~~$15,699~~
REDUCED PRICE
$14,999

USED CARS

STOCK	YEAR	MODEL	TRANS.	MILEAGE	COLOR	LICENSE #	PRICE	REDUCED PRICE
TOYOTA SEDANS								
U08-017P	2002	AVALON 4DR.	AUTO	34812	BEIGE	ABW-469	$14,699	
R08-008F	2006	CAMRY LE 4DR	AUTO	18576	BEIGE	ADN-161	$15,999	
GM CARS								
R07-035F	2005	AVEO 4DR.	AUTO	63367	WHITE	ACD-026	~~$9,599~~	$7,599
R08-005F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	114073	BLUE	ACB-544	$6,999	
R07-013F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	39164	ORANGE	ADO-022	~~$9,599~~	$7,599
R07-023F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	32635	WHITE	ABX-679	~~$9,599~~	$7,599
U08-032R	2005	EPICA 4DR SEDAN	AUTO	27339	WHITE	ACD-506	$8,699	
U08-033R	2005	EPICA 4DR SEDAN	AUTO	21118	BEIGE	ACD-486	$8,699	
R07-034F	2005	OPTRA 4DR.	AUTO	14592	SILVER	ACD-020	~~$10,999~~	$9,499
LEXUS								
R08-003F	2003	LEXUS LS430	AUTO	54477	IVORY	ADU-502	~~$29,999~~	$28,999
TOYOTA TRUCKS								
R07-038F	2004	TACOMA 4X2 XTRACAB	AUTO	49609	BEIGE	ABV-159	~~$11,899~~	$10,999
U08-014P	2004	TACOMA 4X2	MANUAL	44000	WHITE	ACA-948	~~$12,499~~	$11,999
OTHER CARS & TRUCKS								
U08-007P	2005	HYUNDAI SANTA FE 4DR.	AUTO	48717	BLACK	ACE-248	~~$11,599~~	$10,599
U07-106P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX DR.	AUTO	53147	SILVER	ADF-401	~~$8,999~~	$7,999
U07-107P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX DR.	AUTO	48755	SILVER	ADF-421	~~$8,999~~	$7,999
U07-034T	2000	NISSAN MAXIMA GXE 4DR.	AUTO	68648	WHITE	ACT-812	~~$10,999~~	$8,399
U07-104T	2003	NISSAN MURANO SE	AUTO	32000	PEWT	ABZ-615	~~$16,799~~	$15,299
U08-035T	2000	NIZZAN ALTIMA GXE 4DR SDN	AUTO	64846	GREEN	ABS-748	$6,999	
U08-038T	2001	MITS MONTERO WGN	AUTO	93155	BEIGE	CVS-88	$7,999	
U07-095T	1999	MAZDA MILLENIA 4DR. SEDAN	AUTO	91014	SILVER	ABP-583	~~$7,999~~	$7,099
GM SPORT UTILITY								
U08-036T	2002	TRAILBLAZER 4 WD	AUTO	36460	RED	ACB-993	$9,999	
SPORT UTILITY								
U07-064T	2001	4RUNNER 4WD	AUTO	56882	CHAMPAIGNE	ABY-153	~~$14,599~~	$12,599
U07-050T	2002	RAV4 4DR. 4WD	AUTO	39182	WHITE	ABW-677	~~$13,699~~	$12,799
U07-007T	2004	RAV4 4DR. 4WD	AUTO	41649	BEIGE	ACB-455	~~$15,699~~	$14,999
U07-082T	2004	RAV4 4DR. 2WD	AUTO	68919	GRAY		~~$14,599~~	$12,599
R08-007F	2006	RAV4 4DR. 2WD LTD	AUTO	20311	WHITE	ACE-344	~~$19,185~~	$19,099

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TOYOTA ACDelco

NMI teachers take part in Pacific CHILD study

Seated front row: Karen Alla (KES); Augusto Evangelista (WSR); Juan Cuellar (DES); Salome Limes (KagES). Middle row: Josie Jones-Lizama (PREL staff); Evelyn Ooka (PREL staff); Corazon Taisacan (KagES); Marji Pangelinan (WSR); Monica Pangelinan (WSR); Nelly Sablan (KagES); Rachel Reyes (DES); Susan Hanson (PREL staff). Back row: SiAna Echaluse (DES); Lynn Mendiola (KES); May Cruz (DES); Mary Angela Wheat (KagES)

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Regional Educational Laboratory Pacific, administered by Pacific Resources for Education and Learning, is conducting a study focusing on literacy development for English language learners in American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Hawaii.

The program, called Pacific Communities with High-performance In Literacy Development (Pacific CHILD) is a rigorous regional research study of a principles-based professional development program.

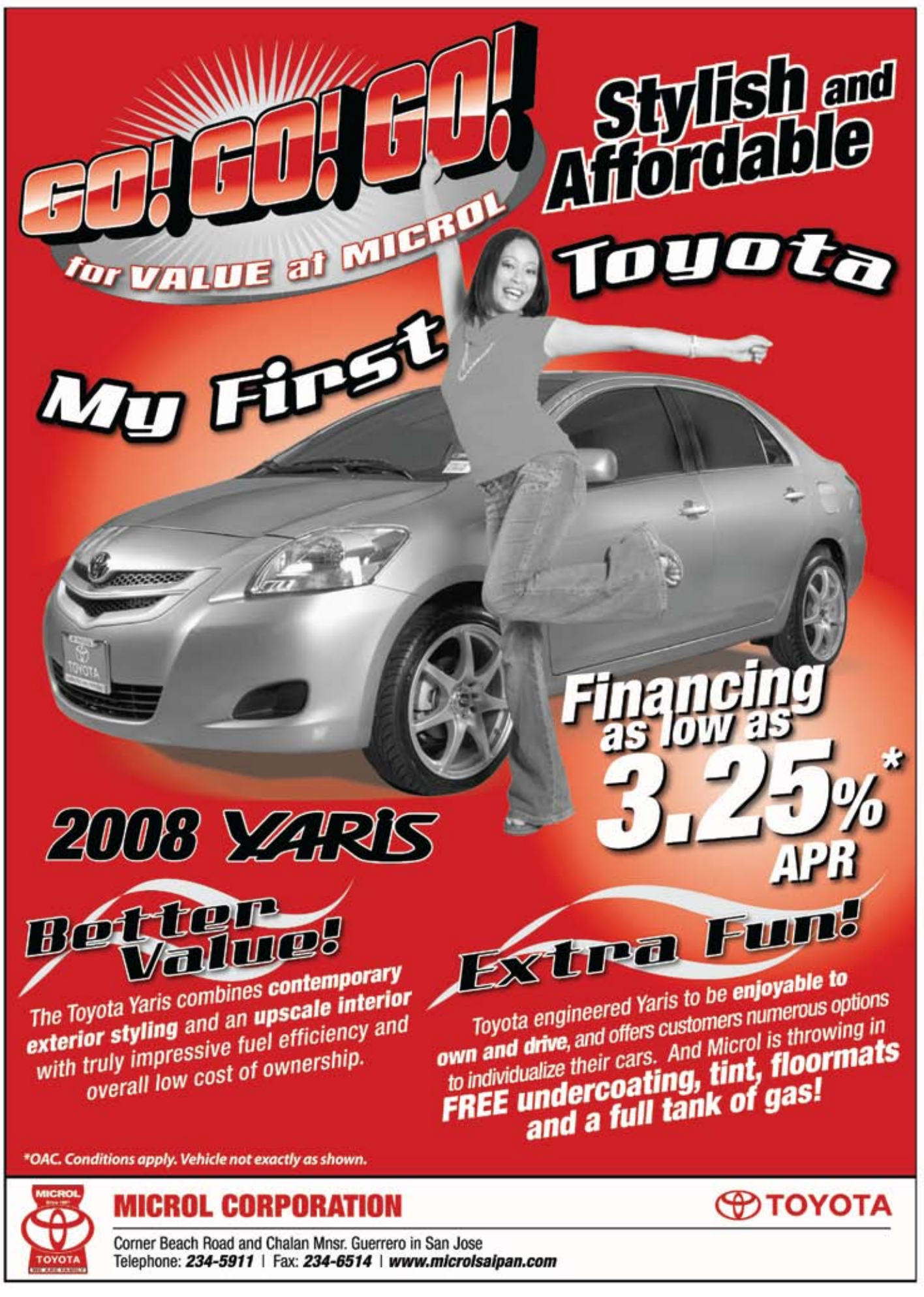
The program includes annual institutes conducted for participating project teachers. The purpose of the annual institutes is to introduce teachers to various research-based strategies for effectively teaching and learning reading comprehension, which teachers will use throughout the two-year research study. The institute is designed so that topics introduced in the first year are revisited and extended in the second year in order to consolidate learning. The CNMI is in its second year of participation in the study.

On June 9–20, 2008, 13 fourth- and fifth-grade teachers from Dandan Elementary School, Koblerville Elementary School, Kagman Elementary School, and William S. Reyes Elementary School participated in the Pacific CHILD annual institute 2. In its second year, the annual institute focused on deepening teachers' knowledge and skills in teaching reading comprehension for all students—especially English language learners—and improving student achievement in reading. REL-P Program Specialists Susan Hanson, Evelyn Ooka, and Josi Jones-Lizama conducted this second Pacific CHILD annual institute in the CNMI.

The first week of the institute began with a brief overview of the Pacific CHILD study. The program specialists then delved into deepening the teachers' knowledge, which included techniques for teaching vocabulary, comprehension strategies, and pedagogy. Participants learned about research supporting effective teaching and learning in reading comprehension, observed demonstrations, and had the opportunity to practice the techniques.

During the second week, the program specialists focused on classroom lesson demonstrations with 45 fifth-grade students, 15 in each class. According to research about how teachers learn, opportunities for teachers to discuss instructional strategies and techniques together assist their ability to plan and implement lessons more effectively. Therefore, following the demonstrations, the specialists and teachers would debrief to share their thoughts on the lesson. Participating teachers also taught with specific reading components and focused instructional formats each day, after lesson demonstrations by the program specialists. These lessons were observed by the program specialists, who would then hold debriefs with the teachers. Teachers spent the afternoons of the institute working in collaborative groups called Cooperative Lesson Planning groups, where program specialists provided more information, activities, and guidance for teachers as they prepared their lessons for the following day. Each CLP group had four to five members, one or two from each of the above mentioned schools. Additionally, the teachers were able to meet in their peer groups to share insights from their CLP group.

The intense two-week annual institute ended with an award ceremony, honoring each fifth-grade student and teacher with a certificate of participation. As one teacher commented, "It's the best professional development I've ever attended in my years as a teacher for the public school system." ***(PREL)***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GOVERNOR

From Page 11

that has nurtured us? Talk about biting the hand that feeds you!

I personally believe that if Governor Fitial wants to sue the U.S. over federalization, he may do so, but he needs to use his own money to fund it or use donations from the big businesses and individuals that are encouraging him to fight it. While I recently read that "sympathizers" will be shelling out the big bucks to sue the United States, imagine if we used that money to build a new classroom for PSS, fund more scholarships for NMC so additional students can get a local college degree, purchase much needed medical supplies for CHC, or used it to help the homeless who are now living on several of our public beaches. Things have gone from bad to worse, and there seems to be no end in sight to our problems or any light at the end of this dark, depressing tunnel.

I am open to suggestions and criticism, and expect nothing less. In the meantime, you can visit my blog at http://marianaspride.blogspot.com/ and vote on whether or not you feel Governor Fitial should sue the U.S. over federalization.

Santos, Womack receive Whiteman Spirit Award

By JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
jackie_delacruz89@yahoo.com
JUNIOR REPORTER

Senior Airman Mike Womack and Airman Ronald Santos from the 509th Maintenance Squadron were recently awarded the Whiteman Spirit Awards for being Good Samaritans when they helped a stranded motorist put out the fire engulfing his car's engine.

Santos, who hails from Saipan, and Womack received the award from Brig. Gen. Garrett Herencak, 509th Bomb wing commander, on Feb. 11.

The awards stemmed from an incident when, as they were returning to Whiteman Air Force Base from a Chapel-sponsored trip to Colorado Springs, Colo., Womack and Santos noticed a motorist in distress on the other side of the interstate highway. The motorist's engine was in flames and he was already jettisoning his belongings from the vehicle.

Womack maneuvered the Government Service vehicle he was driving near the motorist's car as Santos took out a fire distinguisher and both rushed toward the smoke and flames.

Master Sgt. Brad Plante, who had nominated Airmen Womack and Santos for the award, said the motorist was startled at the sudden appearance of the two, who, without being asked, helped extinguish the flames.

Santos completely stopped the flames, and Womack examined the troubled vehicle ensure that there were no more flames and that the motorist was not injured.

"The motorist was overjoyed that the airmen had stopped to help. The fire department was already en route, but it would have been too late to save his vehicle due to the rural location," said Plante.

"Womack and Santos were selfless in their acts of initiative and courage, saving the property and potentially the life of a citizen. These acts reflect in everyway the core values of service before self and excellence in all we do, reflecting highly on the Air Force and Armed Forces of the United States," Plante said.

Santos, a native of Saipan in the Northern Mariana Islands, is the son of Monet and Rudy Santos of Dandan, San Vicente Village.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO

Senior Airman Mike Womack, left, and Airman Ronald Santos, right, flank Brig. Gen. Garrett Herencak, 509th Bomb wing commander, after receiving the Whiteman Spirit Award.

Guam student's artwork on display at US Capitol

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo welcomed Guam's 2008 Congressional Arts Competition winner Alan San Agustin to Washington D.C. yesterday for the official ribbon cutting ceremony marking the 27th Annual Congressional Arts Competition, "*An Artistic Discovery*."

San Agustin is the son of Joseph and Maria San Agustin of Barrigada and is a senior at Fr. Duenas Memorial School in Mangilao. He was joined at the ribbon cutting ceremony by his sister, Rachel.

San Agustin's art piece, "*The Legend of the Flying Proa*," won the annual competition on Guam amongst a field of 27 high school artists from five public and private schools in May.

"Alan is a very creative young artist whose talent is among the best in the nation," Bordallo said. "His dramatic artwork will be viewed by thousands of visitors to the U.S. Capitol."

The annual competition, titled "*An Artistic Discovery*" is open to every Congressional district in every state and territory in the nation. San Agustin's art piece will be displayed in the Capitol tunnel for an entire year along with pieces from other districts. These art pieces are seen and appreciated by hundreds of thousands of visitors from around the world during that time. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Alan San Agustin and Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo stand in front of the winning art piece in the tunnel of the U.S. Capitol.

Please Vote

JUAN TUDELA
LIZAMA

NON-VOTING
DELEGATE '08

My Dear People of the Commonwealth,

Hafa Adai! With the support and blessings of my family, friends, and supporters, it is with sincere humility and honor that I take this opportunity to formally announce my candidacy for the seat of NMI Delegate to the United States Congress. I seek this responsibility with the utmost respect for the Northern Mariana Islands' people, its rich history and culture, and while acknowledging the awesome cultural diversity that exists in our islands.

With my candidacy, I bring and offer my over 37 years of experience in public service to which I was fortunate to acquire. The skills that I have gained over the years can be attributed to my experience serving under various capacities that include: private legal practice, government service, and actively participating in countless international conventions.

My highest priority is to restore the image and once harmonious relationship the CNMI enjoyed with the U.S. Congress and the international community. It is crucial that we establish a strong partnership with our American Family through engaging in constant and active dialogues and vibrant participation with the U.S. Congress in matters involving the commonwealth's best interests as well as its present and future political landscaping.

The challenges that presently plague the CNMI makes this upcoming election a critical one not because of the historic significance of the office but because our islands need to send a STRONG VOICE to the U.S. Congress for the health and survival of our islands.

In the weeks leading up to the elections on November 4th, I will unveil my official platform which would contain a series of information pertaining to practical, realistic, and achievable short-term objectives and long-term goals that I believe will address the pressing issues facing our dear Commonwealth.

With hope, I humbly seek your support and vote of confidence this November 4th, 2008 and together, let us all make a difference for the betterment of our islands.

To this end, I want to invite all my family, friends, and supporters to join me for dinner and cocktail at Saipan World Resort this Saturday, June 28, 2008, form 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Your presence is greatly appreciated.

/s/ Juan Tudela Lizama

Thank you for your support

Ramon S. Guerrero, Chairman of the Committee-to-Elect Juan Tudela Lizama
Antonio Taisacan, Treasurer, Committee-to-Elect Juan Tudela Lizama

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NMI Democratic Party registration set

The NMI Democratic Party will be registering Democrats at the Kagman Community Center on July 2 at 6:30pm. All registered voters are encouraged to attend and see where the NMI Democratic Party stands on the current issues faced by the CNMI. The purpose of the registration is to align the NMI Democratic Party with the U.S. Democrats. The NMI Democrats will have a delegation for the 2012 Democratic National Convention. Only voters who register as a Democrat will be able to vote in the Democratic primaries. ***(PR)***

Pro-marine monument petition signing

Supporters of the Marianas Marine Monument will be collecting signatures on the petition in support of the monument at JoeTen in Susupe on Saturday, June 28 from 10am to noon.

For further information, or to obtain copies of the petition, contact Ken Kramer at ken_kramer0886@yahoo.com, Ruth Tighe at ruth.tighe@pticom.com, Chuck Sayon at cfsayon@hotmail.com, Mike Tripp at scubatrip@mac.com, or Ike Cabrera at inac1@pticom.com. ***(PR)***

Pinoy Guest Worker Forum tomorrow

Coalition of United Workers (NMI) will be hosting a Pinoy Guest Workers' Forum tomorrow, June 28, 2008, from 8am to 12pm at the Saipan Community Church in Susupe.

The guest speakers are Federal Ombudsman Jim Benedetto, Philippine Consulate Team headed by Consul General Wilfredo DL. Maximo, and Alfredo Antolin.

This forum is free and open only to Filipino guest workers. Schedule for other sectors will be announced later. ***(PR)***

Red Cross Health and Safety Training

The American Red Cross announces the following health and safety training for the month July 2008:

- Adult CPR – July 26, 2008, Saturday, from 8am to 12pm
- First Aid – July 26, 2008, Saturday, from 12pm to 5pm
- Infant & Child CPR – August 9, 2008, Saturday, from 8am to 1pm.

The training fee for Adult CPR and First Aid is $30.00 per person/per course and the training fee for the Infant & Child CPR is $35.00 per person. A participant's booklet is required. Participant's booklet is $5.00 each and is good for all three courses.

For more information, call the NMI Chapter Office at 234-3459. ***(PR)***

Chacha summer school program

Chacha Ocean View Jr. Hogh School is pleased to announce that the day COJHS Summer School Program will begin on June 30, 2008 Monday. Classes will begin at 8 am and end at 12:15 pm, Monday through Saturday.

Should you have any questions and/ or comments, call 237-3921 or 664-4100. ***(PR)***

Free computer classes at library

The Joeten Kiyu Public Library will offer a free basic computer and Internet classes to all students beginning July 1 to Aug. 30, 2008.

Class size is limited, so interested students may contact us at 235-7329 or 235-7322 for more information. ***(PR)***

Benito Clan meeting set

This is to inform the children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Vicente Gogue Taitano and Juan Gogue Taitano "Benito Clan" that the next meeting for the "Benito Clan" will be on Monday, June 30, 2008, at the residence of Sylvestre I. & Esco T. Iguel in Tanapag at 6pm.

Family members are urged to attend this important meeting. For more information, contact Eleanor Aldan Cepeda at 483-6358 or Cecilia Taitano Celes at 285-0607. ***(PR)***

WSR Elementary School notice

All parents and guardians are being informed that the William S. Reyes Elementary School Office will be closed during the following dates: June 30-July 4/July 31-August 8.

Student Registration is still ongoing. If your child is not registered, please come by the office to register you child/ren. Registration will close on Aug. 11. Registering your child early will ensure that his/her school entrance is not interrupted.

The required student uniforms for school year 2008-2009 are on sale at the office. If purchased by June 27, a set of five (top and bottom) is $108. If purchased after June 27, the set will cost $115. Parents are also welcome to buy the uniforms individually.

WSR notebooks and yearbooks are also on sale at the office for $2 each.

For more information, call the office at 237-3542 or Mrs. Villagomez at 287-3542 or 287-3807, or email at villagomezl@pss.cnmi.mp. ***(PR)***

Tinian Jr. Sr. High School calendar

Summer 2008 School Information
REGULAR SUMMER SESSION
Start Date : June 30, 2008
End Date : July 31, 2008
Time : 8:00 – 12:00
Focus: Reading, writing, vocabulary development, math
HONORS ENGLISH
Start Date August 4, 2008
End Date August 29, 2008
Registration forms are available at the front office. ***(PR)***

Sr. Remedios school registration opens

The Sister Remedios Early Childhood Development Center has started open registration for School Year 2008-2009.

Sister Remedios ECDC offers two choices for children between ages 3 and 5 years old:

- A regular school day – 7:30am to 11:30am, or
- A regular school day *plus* afternoon DAY CARE – 7:30am to 5pm

For more information, call 234-6247 between the office hours of 7:30am and 5pm. ***(PR)***

Karidat raffle draw winners

The Karidat Foundation announced yesterday the list of winners for its raffle draw that was held June 20, 2008. The winners are:

Prize	Ticket #	Winner
Grand Prize	1461	Terry Castro
Baby Grand Prize	0047	Lucinda R. Sablan
1st Prize	2765	Clarence Tenorio III
2nd Prize	2649	Champ Tenorio
3rd Prize	2049	Kevin McCale
4th Prize	1599	Cris M. Sablan
5th Prize	0400	Norlynn Paulus
6th Prize	0487	Moises Tagre
7th Prize	2931	Daisy Bier
8th Prize	0853	Priscilla Tudela
9th Prize	0131	EJ
10th Prize	3471	Laling M. Babauta
11th Prize	1721	Miana
12th Prize	3086	Karben
13th Prize	1792	Katherine P. Mersai
14th Prize	0877	Jordan C. Towai
15th Prize	1010	Aiza Y. Garcia
16th Prize	1963	Esther S. Fleming
17th Prize	1979	Esther S. Fleming
18th Prize	3486	Laling M. Babauta
19th Prize	2091	Sheldeen Fernandez
20th Prize	0953	Christian Tudela

High praise for new book on post-WWII Guam

HONOLULU, Hawaii—As the United States military prepares for a massive relocation of thousands of U.S Marines and their families to Guam, a new book published by the University of Hawaii Press provides needed insight into the history of the island territory.

We Fought the Navy and Won: Guam's Quest for Democracy, by Doloris Coulter Cogan, is a carefully documented yet impassioned first-person account of Guam's struggle to liberate itself from the absolutist rule of the U.S Navy in the years following World War II.

In her book, Cogan focuses on the crucial five years after Liberation Day in 1945, when the people in Guam stood up to the Navy in their desire for self-determination. *We Fought the Navy and Won* is the first time the detailed story has been told of how Guam was transferred from the U.S. Navy to the Department of the Interior.

It is "documented with scrupulous notes and appendices that gather material otherwise scattered, if not fugitive, for future historians," according to John J. Fisher, professor emeritus and peace activist at Goshen College, who reviewed the manuscript. The book contains 24 appendices, nearly 200 notes, and 47 photographs.

Several Pacific Islands authorities were also invited to read Cogan's manuscript: Dirk A. Ballendorf, Ph.D., professor at the University of Guam and director of the Micronesian Area Research Center, wrote, "Insightful and well done. [The book] will be an important contribution to the literature."

Marjorie G. Driver, author of *The Spanish Governors of the Marianas Islands and the Saga of the Palacio*, stated, "Ms. Cogan presents what might be called 'the missing link' between the promises made by the United States to the people of Guam in 1898 and the realization of the document that would guarantee them basic civil rights: the Organic Act of August 1, 1950."

"My first reading was like that of reading a thriller," wrote Byron W. Bender, editor of *Oceanic Linguistics*. "In this case I knew the outcome, but not the details of the denouement, so I lapped them up greedily and yet impatiently. I wanted to get to the end and confirm that it came out okay. …But there was an element of disbelief, too. How could Messrs. Collier and Ickes be so brazen, impudent, and seemingly fearless in the war of words waged with the Pentagon? There were risks, even in the '40s, to challenging the military industrial complex. Yet this doesn't seem to have given anyone pause, Ickes or Collier or the dedicated staff of the *Guam Echo*—all two of them! They were up against an 800-lb gorilla of sorts."

Peter Walshe, professor of political science and a fellow of the Joan Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame says the book "is a pertinent reminder at this moment in the 21st century that a superpower, once able to influence human rights around the globe, is capable of relapsing into an autocratic unilateralism offering the world John Collier's worst fear: 'no future except one of tooth and claw.'"

"This book is an historical eye-opener on the struggle of Guamanians in their quest for democracy and their ultimate victory over the Naval blockade," according to Ret. Navy Cmdr. Richard Takahashi. "It was so interesting I could hardly put it down. I think it should be provided to the U.S. Naval Academy, all of the military's Command and Staff Schools, as well as all universities with Navy ROTC program."

We fought the Navy and Won: Guam's Quest for Democracy retails for $24 in paperback and for $45, hardcover. Books may be ordered directly from the University of Hawaii Press, toll-free phone 1-888-847-7377, or 808-956-8255; email: uhpbooks@hawaii.edu; or online at: www.uhpress.hawaii.edu. ***(PR)***

Wells Fargo Financial Wants To Help You Celebrate Saipan Liberation Day!

WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL

Stop by Wells Fargo Financial on Chalan Monsignor Guerrero to begin your Celebration! We are proud to be offering specially designed 100% cotton American and Saipan Flag T-shirts in honor of our July 4th Liberation Day (yours with an approved loan in the amount of $1,000.00 or more!)

Or, call ahead at 235-6030 and upon loan approval, we will have your loan check and Liberation Day T-shirt available (after signing loan papers.)

Why wait? Act now! The Saipan Liberation Day T-shirts are available while supplies last.
Call or stop by Wells Fargo Financial today!

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NISSAN

2008 Summer Sales Event

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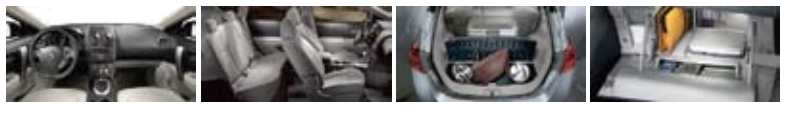
The All-New Altima Coupe
IN STOCK NOW!

Introducing Rogue
A whole new crossover

The All-New Nissan Rogue with available intuitive All-Wheel Drive, extra-smart storage and a street-savvy 27 miles per gallon. Driving is fun again.



2007 MODELS CLEARANCE

NISSAN	STOCK #	COLOR	PRICE
Versa HB	#7L360734	Blue	$15,990.00
Versa S	#7L398849	White	$15,990.00
Frontier SE	#7C408903	Silver	$26,990.00

FORD	STOCK #	COLOR	PRICE
~~Ranger~~	~~#7PA3111~~ SOLD	~~White~~	~~$16,990.00~~
Fusion	#7R114053	White	$19,990.00
Escape	#7KB29539	White	$19,990.00
F-150	#6NB05745	White	$21,990.00

KIA	STOCK #	COLOR	PRICE
~~Rio~~	~~#7629237~~ SOLD	~~White~~	~~$12,995.00~~
Sportage	#77354358	Jade	$17,695.00
Sorento	#65602982	Green	$18,995.00

HONDA	STOCK #	COLOR	PRICE
Fit	#7S031086	Silver	$14,995.00
Fit Sport	#7S031103	White	$16,495.00
Civic DX	#7L061948	White	$16,995.00
~~Ridgeline~~	~~#6H56662~~ SOLD	~~Silver~~	~~$29,990.00~~

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Law Office of Vicente T. Salas
2nd Floor, UIU Building, Chalan Monsignor Guerrero
San Jose Village
P.O. Box 501309
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 234-7455/234-7427
Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

F. MATTHEW SMITH
Law Office of F. Matthew Smith, LLC
2nd Floor, UIU Building, Chalan Monsignor Guerrero
San Jose Village
P.O. Box 501127
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 234-7455/234-7427
Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

Attorneys for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, Plaintiff, -vs- VICENTE L. METTAO and MARSHA LOURDES L. METTAO Defendants.	Civil Action No. 03-0371B **NOTICE OF AUCTION**

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, hereinafter referred to as auctioneer, and the Development Corporation Division of the Commonwealth Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as CDA, hereby give notice that all of the right, title, and interest of the Defendants Vicente L. Mettao and Marsha Lourdes L. Mettao in the following described, real property situated in Sugar King Estates, Saipan, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

Lot No. 017 D 12, containing an area of 900 square meters more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 017 D 00, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry as Document No. 4842 on the 11th of September 1975, including all improvements, appurtenances and easements therewith.

The auction sale will be open to the general public and will be held at CDA's Conference Room, Saipan, at **2:00 p.m., on Friday, July 18, 2008,** subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

1. **Minimum Bid. No minimum opening bid.**
2. Reserve. The auction shall be held with reserve.
3. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auctions with reserve, auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction:
   a.) To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;
   b.) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c.) To reject, on behalf of the seller, any and all bids.
4. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Oscar C. Camacho, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Commonwealth Development Authority, P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7145, Fax: 235-7147; or to F. Matthew Smith, P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.
5. Deposit; Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to CDA.
6. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and CDA reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
7. **Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact CDA for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of Vicente L. Mettao and Marsha Lourdes L. Mettao in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty, and subject to the redemption laws of the CNMI. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.**

Dated this 26th day of June 2008.

/s/ CLAUDIO K. NORITA, COMMISSIONER
Department of Public Safety

VICENTE T. SALAS
Law Office of Vicente T. Salas
2nd Floor, UIU Building, Chalan Monsignor Guerrero
San Jose Village
P.O. Box 501309
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 234-7455/234-7427
Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

F. MATTHEW SMITH
Law Office of F. Matthew Smith, LLC
2nd Floor, UIU Building, Chalan Monsignor Guerrero
San Jose Village
P.O. Box 501127
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 234-7455/234-7427
Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

Attorneys for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, Plaintiff, -vs- THOMASA I. PALACIOS and JAMES M. MENDIOLA, Defendants.	Civil Action No. 05-0101C **NOTICE OF AUCTION**

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, hereinafter referred to as auctioneer, and the Development Corporation Division of the Commonwealth Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as CDA, hereby give notice that all of the right, title, and interest of the Defendants Thomasa I. Palacios and James M.Mendiola in the following described, real property situated in (insert), CNMI will be sold at an auction:

Lot No. 131 T 31, containing an area of 1,322 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on the Parcel Split of 131 T 08, DLS Check No. 131 T 04, an original of which was filed with the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, as File No. 95-432 on February 22, 1995, including all improvements, appurtenances and easements therewith.

The auction sale will be open to the general public and will be held at CDA's Conference Room, Saipan, at **2:00 p.m., on Friday, July 18, 2008,** subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

1. **Minimum Bid. No minimum opening bid.**
2. Reserve. The auction shall be held with reserve.
3. **Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auctions with reserve, auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction:
   a.) To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;
   b.) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c.) To reject, on behalf of the seller, any and all bids.
4. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Oscar C. Camacho, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Commonwealth Development Authority, P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7145, Fax: 235-7147; or to F. Matthew Smith, P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.
5. Deposit; Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to CDA.
6. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and CDA reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
7. **Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact CDA for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of Thomasa I. Palacios and James M. Mendiola in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty, and subject to the redemption laws of the CNMI. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.**

Dated this 26th day of June 2008.

/s/ CLAUDIO K. NORITA, COMMISSIONER
Department of Public Safety

912 contract dengue in N. Caledonia

NOUMÉA, New Caledonia (Oceania Flash/PIR)—The outbreak of mosquito-transmitted dengue fever in New Caledonia has so far affected over 900 persons in the French Pacific territory since the beginning of this year.

Latest official statistics published locally by the health and social affairs department reveal a staggering 912 known cases since January 1, 2008.

The health department told local media the figures were still rising at a pace of one to two new cases per day, even though the humid season was theoretically over.

But abundant rains have continued to affect New Caledonia in recent weeks and local temperatures have also been labeled warmer than usual.

The fresh statistics also come despite an intensive prevention and eradication campaign launched several months ago.

The main worry was that when the hot and humid season comes back, some time in September, the existing situation might constitute a fertile ground for a fresh and even more intense epidemic, local health authorities feared.

The current epidemic, which is mainly centered on the capital Nouméa and its suburbs, has however not caused so far any death this year.

The worst dengue epidemic in New Caledonia dates back to 2003, when 19 persons died.

But public health programs head Anne Pfannstiel said there was an urgency to contain the existing situation.

The main advice remained focused on urging individuals to see their doctor when suffering any symptom that could be easily mistaken for influenza.

Dengue fever has been prevalent in New Caledonia since February this year.

The hemorrhagic, mosquito-transmitted dengue epidemic has been affecting the capital Nouméa and its suburbs, but also the north-eastern island if Lifou (Loyalty island group) and on the Isle of Pines, South of the capital Nouméa.

Prevention campaigns have intensified in the past few weeks and local health services have urged the population to take heed of such simple recommendations as cleaning any potential breeding site for the Aedes Aegypti mosquito (the vector of the disease) larvae.

In the capital Nouméa, municipal teams, from the health and hygiene departments, have been given special powers to intervene and clean up ill-maintained private compounds where still waters are found in discarded tyres and other types of containers.

Those items are regarded as ideal breeding sites for mosquitoes and their larvae.

Municipal teams are also deployed, especially at dusk, to spray insecticides in accordance with a WHO-recommended protocol.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

DIRECTOR OF COURTS
CNMI JUDICIAL BRANCH

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Supreme Court announces the position of Director of Courts for the CNMI Judicial Branch.

NATURE OF WORK: This position will be the executive head of the administrative division of the CNMI Judicial Branch and will work under the general and immediate supervision of the Chief Justice of the CNMI Supreme Court. The Director of Courts will have direct management and supervision over the clerical, professional and other support personnel with the exception of the Justices, Judges, and their Law Clerks and Secretaries. The Director will be responsible for planning, directing and supervising staff of the CNMI Judicial Branch in the areas of administration including personnel and fiscal management, budget analysis and preparation, procurement, contract negotiations, programs and project development, public relations, and related work.

QUALIFICATIONS: The Director should hold an advanced degree from an accredited United States institution and a minimum of a bachelor's degree with five years managerial/supervisory experience. Preference will be given to an applicant who has knowledge of the principles of government budgetary processes, personnel management, contract procedures, and the political processes.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This is an ungraded position appointed and served at the pleasure of the Chief Justice. Salary will be negotiable.

INTERESTED PERSONS should send their resume and current application to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the Honorable Miguel S. Demapan at the Guma' Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice, Susupe, Saipan. For additional information about this position, call (670) 236-9708. Resume and application must be received by 12:00 noon on June 30, 2008.

Marshalls is hit by cyber attack

MAJURO, Marshall Islands (Yokwe/PIR)—A cyber attack crippled incoming email service of the Marshall Islands' National Telecommunication Authority Tuesday. About midnight, traffic on NTA's incoming mail gateways peaked above four times their normal levels. On Tuesday, users were not receiving e-mail messages, nor SPAM. The outgoing e-mail service was not affected.

By Wednesday afternoon, NTA General Manager Anthony Muller said that e-mail appeared to be flowing normally. "Our technical team has put in place measures and filters to tame this attack."

"We will continue to monitor and add resources as necessary to return e-mail services to normal," said Muller.

In a response to Yokwe Online via email, Muller said NTA's IT department indicated that this higher than normal level of traffic was created as each of the incoming mail gateways were subjected to over 500 SMTP connections per second.

"These unusually high numbers of connections did not actually deliver email messages as the mail queues on our incoming mail gateways remained empty. This is quite different from the normal SPAM attacks we see daily; SPAM actually tries to flood our queues with email messages, however, this attack was designed to keep our servers constantly locked to zombies, while blocking legitimate e-mail."

The attack was consistent with an incoming e-mail Distributed Denial of Service attacks using spoofed IP addresses.

Name: Martina A. Uchel
P.O. Box 501726 Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. No. 483-8273

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE APPOINTMENT OF LEGAL GUARDIANSHIP OF JOSCELYN ALEPUYO SANCHEZ Minor Child by PATRICK B. DELA CRUZ and JAYLENE A. DELA CRUZ Petitioners.	FCD-GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 08-0356 (T) **SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition to Appoint a Legal Guardian for the above-named minor child by Martina A. Uche Petitioners, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court and is open for review at the office of the Clerk of the said Court in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Guma Hustisia Building, Susupe, Saipan, NMI, before the Honorable Kenneth Govendo on the day of June 30, 2008 at 1:30pm or as soon as thereafter.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court
By: /s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

DANILO T. AGUILAR, F0198
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 505301
First Floor, San Jose Court Bldg.
Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira Way
San Jose, Saipan, MP 96950
TELEPHONE: (670) 234-8801
FAX: (670) 234-1251

Attorney for Petitioners
KHORSHED ALAM and LEILANI MARGARETE BASA-ALAM

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In The Matter of the Adoption of MOHAMMED MASUD and TANVIR HASAN, minor children By, KHORSHED ALAM and LEILANI MARGARETE BASA-ALAM, Petitioners.	FCD-AD CIVIL ACTION NO. 08-0344 **NOTICE OF HEARING**

TO: ALL INTERESTED PERSONS

Notice is hereby given that Khorshed Alam and Leilani Margarete Basa-Alam has filed a verified Petition for the adoption of minor children Mohammed Masud and Tanvir Hasan in the Commonwealth Superior Court. The original petition is available for review at the Office of the Clerk of Court at Susupe, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar, P.O. Box 505301, First Floor San Jose Court Bldg., Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira Way, San Jose Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A hearing on the above-entitled matter will be held on July 24, 2008 at 1:30pm in the Superior Court, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 23rd day of June, 2008.

/s/ Clerk of Court

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CHRISTIONICA A. TAISACAN CHRISTAL A. TAISACAN, BERNEILA A. TAISACAN NEIL A. TAISACAN JR., JULVONNIE A. TAISACAN (Minor Children)	CIVIL ACTION NO. 07-0384
NEIL TAISACAN AND BERTHA TAISACAN, VINCENT CABRERA Plaintiffs, -v- WORLD CORPORATION dba SAIPAN WORLD RESORT, and OK-JOO JUN LIZAMA Defendants.	SUMMONS

TO: KAP SHIN CHUN

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the First Amended Complaint being filed against you, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within twenty (20) days after service of this Summons upon you, and deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the TORRES BROTHERS, LLC., Attorney at Law, whose address is stated above, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of Court at the Superior Court for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, in the House of Justice - Guma Hustisia Imwal Aweewe. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with the Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

BY ORDER OF THIS COURT.

Dated this 1 day Nov., 2007.

/s/ Clerk of Court
Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSING
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O.Box 502078, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. No.: (670) 664-4809 • Fax No.: (670) 664-4813

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to P. L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Board of Professional Licensing (BPL) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly meeting on **Tuesday, July 1, 2008, at 9:00a.m.** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the DPW office conference room located in Gualo Rai, Saipan. Agenda for the meeting is as follows:

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order**
   2. Determination of Quorum
   3. Review and Adoption of Agenda
   4. Review and Adoption of Minutes (2/12/08)
5. **Communications from Governor's Office & Legislature**
   A. Governor's Office
   B. Legislature
   6. Chairman's Report
   7. Executive Director's Report
   8. Investigator's Report
9. **Old Business**
   A. BPL Case #2008-01
10. **New Business**
   A. Bridge Investment Group – Tinian Project
   B. S.B. 16-27 Contractor's Licensing Act
11. **Miscellaneous Business**
   A. Unlicensed Appraiser
12. **Executive Session - The Board may vote to meet in Executive Session.**
   A. License of Juan C. Tenorio
13. **Adjournment of Meeting**

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Carmen Safeway SUPERMARKET

OPEN DAILY 6:00AM (MONDAY-SUNDAY)

JUNE 26-30, 2008

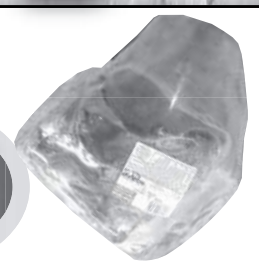
Chivas Life:
Chivas Regal 12 yrs. old
4.5 liter Giveaway/July 4th
Come in for details.

End of the Month Savings

Chicken Whole Fryer 30# — $35.00/cs.

Beef Spareribs 20# BBQ or Adobo Cut — $18.99/cs.

U.S. Pork Leg Whole B/I — $1.89/lb.

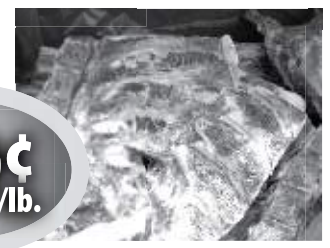


U.S. Beef Marrow Bones — 79¢/lb.

US Beef Brisket "Choice for Tinala" — $2.69/lb.

Lamb Rack Aust. 18pc. — $7.39/lb.

U.S. Pork Neck Bones — 99¢/lb.



U.S. Beef Tripe Scalded — $1.39/lb.

U.S. Pork Intestine "small" — $4.29/lb.

Campbell's Spaghetti 14.75oz. — 99¢/ea.

Campbell's Pork and Beans 8oz. — 69¢/ea.

S&W Stewed Tomatoe 14.50oz. — 99¢/ea.

GROCERIES

Old El Paso Taco Shell 18ct. — $2.99/ea.

Hamburger Helper Beef Pasta 5.6 oz. — $1.29/ea.

Zee Napkins 360 ct. — $3.49/ea.

Axxion Plates 125 ct. — $6.34/ea.

Lysol Clnr Apple 32 oz. — $2.19/ea.

Joy Lemon 90 oz. — $5.99/ea.

House Vermont Med 250g. Jpn. — $2.29/ea.

GROCERIES

WF Tomato Sauce 8oz. 6pk.	99¢
Kraft Stovetop Chkn 12oz.	$2.99
B.C. Scalloped Potatoes 7.8oz.	$1.99
W/Family Whole Tomatoe 14.5oz.	69¢
S&B Hot Mustard 43g. Jpn	79¢
Scoop Away Cat Litter 7lb.	$2.99
Paire Ware Plastic Forks 300ct.	$8.99
Paire Ware Plastic Spoon 300ct.	$8.99
Kao Det. Attack 1.1kg. Jpn	$7.29
Tide Liq. Det. W/B Mntn 100oz.	$8.99
Tide Liq. Cln Brz W/B 100oz.	$8.99
Smoca T/Pwdr Green 155g. Jpn	$1.99
Smoca T/Pwdr Red 155g. Jpn	$1.99
Formula 409 Glass & Surface 32 oz.	$2.99
Campbell's Spaghetti w/ Chz. 14.75oz.	99¢
Hormel Chili Hot w/ Beans 15oz.	$1.39
Dinty Moore Beef Stew 40oz.	$3.99
Campbell's Pork & Beans 8oz.	69¢
Sun Flower Mackerel 15oz. Jpn	$1.49
S&W Asparagus Spears 15oz.	$2.99
S&W Stewed Tomatoes 14.5oz.	99¢
Heinz Ketchup 44 oz.	$3.69
Vlasic Kosher Whole Gal.	$5.99
Takeya Tokujyo Miso 1kg. Jpn	$4.99
House Vermont Hot 250g. Jpn	$2.29
House Vermont Mild 250g. Jpn	$2.29
House Java Curry 220g. Jpn	$2.29
House Indian Curry Reg. 240g.	$2.29
House Indian Curry Hot 240g.	$2.29
House Java Curry Mild 220g.	$2.29

PRODUCE

Onion, Yellow U.S. — 47¢/lb.

Cabbage, Green U.S. — 79¢/lb.

Bell Pepper, Green U.S. — $1.46/lb.

Cabbage Napa U.S. — $1.15/lb.

Apple, Red Delicious U.S. — $1.39/lb.

Pineapple Local — $1.59/lb.

PRODUCE

Potato, Russet U.S.	65¢/lb.
Garlic, Netted U.S.	$1.14/lb.
Pear, D'Anjou U.S.	$1.63/lb.
Orange Choice U.S.	97¢/lb.

LIQUEUR/WINES

Brut, Freixnet Cordon 375ml. — $7.55/ea.

Torres 10 Brandy 700ml. — $17.09/ea.

Liqueur, Dita Lychee 700ml. — $25.65/ea.

Gekke Plum Wine 500ml. — $8.15/ea.

Vodka, Perez Barquero 1L.	$15.11
Wine, Chianti Bellagio 750ml.	$13.28
Nikka Whisky All Malt 700ml.	$17.96
Kanoka Shochu 300ml.	$5.57
Kendall-Jackson Chardonnay 750ml.	$10.16
Sauv. Blanc, Beringer 750ml.	14.39

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DPL sues company over wall construction

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Lands has filed a lawsuit against a private company that leased three public lots in Garapan but allegedly illegally constructed an unsafe hollow-block wall or warehouse in the property.

DPL, through counsel Braddock J. Huesman, sued Jin Am Saipan Corp. for breach of contract and public nuisance.

Saipan Tribune tried but failed to obtain comments from Jin Am yesterday.

DPL asked the Superior Court to declare the lease terminated and that Jin Am has not further rights to or in the property. The plaintiff also asked the court to order Jin Am to immediately remove the hollow-block wall or warehouse. DPL demanded damages, attorney's fees, and court costs.

Huesman stated in the complaint that on Aug. 29, 2006, Jin Am Saipan Corp. contacted DPL to inquire about leasing three public land lots in Garapan.

After negotiations, in February 2007, DPL and Jin Am entered into a lease agreement for the three lots totaling 3,347 square meters.

Jin Am's purpose for entering into the lease was "to construct, operate, manage, and maintain two one-story commercial buildings, and related facilities."

According to the plans submitted by Jin Am—as approved by DPL—the building bordering the southern property line was to be a trapezoidal shaped building with at least a four-foot setback between the property line and the southern building.

On the southern end of the property are two CUC manholes. The plan allowed CUC access to both manholes from Middle Road along the southern property line.

Huesman said that, in July 2007, Jin Am began fencing off the southern property line, thus interfering with access to neighboring lots, which access had been continually in use for more than 20 years.

"More importantly, however, Jin Am's unauthorized fencing up to the southern border of the property blocked CUC's access from Middle Road to the two manhole covers on the property," the lawyer said.

Huesman said that, on Aug. 2, 2007, the defendant began building a hollow-block wall along the southern property line, blocking access from Middle Road to the back of the property, where one of the CUC manholes is located.

He said a roof was later built joining the hollow-block wall to the southern building to fashion what Jin Am refers to as a "warehouse."

The hollow-block wall was built with no footings, in violation of the Uniform Building Safety Code, Huesman noted.

He said the company did not obtain permits required from the Department of Environmental Quality or the Department of Public Works prior to building the hollow-block wall which was later closed in to create the "warehouse" structure.

"Had this 'warehouse' been shown on the plan as submitted to DPL, it would not have been approved by DPL because it completely blocks CUC's access from Middle Road to one of CUC's manholes," Huesman said.

On July 12, 2007, Jin Am filed an "application for temporary use of public lands" with DPL. In the application, Jin Am applied for a permit to use and pave a right of way located between the southern building and Middle Road.

DPL denied the request.

Despite its failure to obtain the permit, Huesman said, Jin Am nonetheless proceeded to pave the area between the property and Middle Road and began to use it as part of the parking lot for the southern building.

On Aug. 21, 2007, DPL sent to Jin Am, through its president Yong Ki Seo, a "notice of unauthorized use of public land" and ordered Jin Am to "cease and desist any use and occupancy" of the area that Jin Am paved.

The lawyer said Jin Am ignored DPL's notice.

Eight days later, DEQ issued Jin Am a "notice of violation/cease and desist order."

The notice of violation/cease and desist order was issued after a DEQ Enforcement Officer conducted a routine inspection and found that Jin Am's land clearing for water line installations had occurred without first obtaining an earthmoving and erosion control permit for the DEQ office.

"Construction continued at the site and, on information and belief, Jin Am has never complied with DEQ's order to correct the violations, and is thus presently in violation of DEQ's order," he said.

On Oct. 30, 2007, DPL, through its legal counsel, wrote Jin Am a notice of breach of lease and unauthorized use of public land concerning the company's repeated breaches of the lease and unauthorized use of public land.

After receiving the notice, Huesman said, Jin Am has continued to block CUC and other traffic and to build unauthorized and unsafe structures on public lands and to use public lands without DPL's approval.

On Dec. 21, 2007, Gov. Benigno Fitial signed the Saipan Zoning Law. The law went into effect on Feb. 1, 2008.

Under the zoning law, Huesman said, a building permit issued before the effective date of the law continues to be valid without a zoning permit only if the building "continues to be in compliance with that permit."

He said Jin Am's construction of the "warehouse" is not in compliance with its building permit or the Building Safety Code, and thus a new zoning permit is required if the "warehouse" is to remain.

Under the zoning law, village commercial properties are required to have a side yard setback of 15 feet when adjoining a village residential zone.

Jinam's "warehouse" has no side yard setback and thus violates the zoning law, Huesman said.

FATHER'S DAY
Isagani Benoza, standing, and Danilo Victoria celebrated Father's Day with family members and friends at Palms Resort Saipan's Fresko Restaurant. The Father's Day event at Palms Resort was a huge success.
FERDIE DE LA TORRE

IN APPRECIATION
LaoLao Bay Golf Resort's President Yun Kim poses with the Family Fun Day committee after receiving a Plaque of Appreciation from Division of Youth Services acting director Debra A. Inos, together with members of the DCCA-DYS for their team-up and success last May 24, 2008 at The Range.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MHS CLASS OF '83 REUNION
Members of the Marianas High School Class of '83 pose for a souvenir picture during their 25th anniversary reunion held last Friday, June 20, at the Pacific Islands Club.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PEPSI PROMO WINNER
MARPAC Marketing Manager Mike Babauta, left, presents Nick Shoemake with a Playstation 3 that he won during the Pepsi "Twist and Win" promotion. Shoemake bought the Pepsi bottle with one of the winning caps at I-Mart in Tanapag. The promotion is still currently going on and there are still more prizes out there like laptops, iPods and still more Playstations. To win, simply buy a 20 oz Pepsi or a 2-liter bottle and look under the cap. An added bonus is when you spell Pepsi with caps, you get to play the Pepsi "Spin it and Win it Wheel," which could win you t-shirts, tumblers, towels, umbrella and free Pepsi products.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas High School Class of '83 members pose for the camera after the June 19 Thanksgiving and Memorial Mass. This year's reunion theme was "Remembering Yesterday, Savoring Today, Leaping Towards A Greater Tomorrow."
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

RED CROSS DONATION
The American Red Cross NMI Chapter donated and installed a state of the art Automated External Defibrillator yesterday at the Saipan International Airport. This donation of equipment and the specialized training was made possible through the generosity of the Larry L. Hillblom Foundation and the NMI Chapter. Employees of DFS and the CPA Ports Police have all received additional no cost training from the Red Cross on how to use this equipment. The hundreds of thousands of passengers that travel through the airport now have public access to this lifesaving device. Special thanks to Kennedy Benjamin for his extra efforts to move this project forward. In the picture are Kennedy Benjamin, Red Cross Health and Safety Coordinator; Jack Tagabue, Airport Maintenance deputy director; and Ray Sablan of the Ports Police.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

Fed signals rate cutting is done

WASHINGTON (AP) -- The Federal Reserve's aggressive period of cutting interest rates to keep the country from falling into a recession is over. That point is in general agreement. The trouble starts when you try to figure out what period the Fed has now entered.

Could the central bank keep rates unchanged for a considerable period? Yes, many analysts say, predicting that the Fed will leave rates alone until next spring.

However, other economists are still worried that the Fed could start ratcheting up rates much sooner than that, especially if this year's surge in oil prices does not soon abate.

The Fed didn't offer much of a road map in its latest policy statement issued Wednesday announcing that the central bank, for the first time since last August, had left the federal funds rate, the interest banks charge each other, unchanged at 2 percent.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Stocks up slightly after Fed keeps rates unchanged

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street ended an erratic day with a modest gain after the Federal Reserve left interest rates unchanged and issued a mixed assessment of the economy. The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 4.40, or 0.04 percent, to 11,811.83, after rising more than 100 points shortly after the Fed announcement. Broader stock indicators managed to log stronger gains than the blue chips. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 7.68, or 0.58 percent, to 1,321.97, and the Nasdaq composite index rose 32.98, or 1.39 percent, to 2,401.26.

Court slashes damages award in Exxon oil spill

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Supreme Court on Wednesday slashed the $2.5 billion punitive damages award in the Exxon Valdez disaster to $500 million, a decision that could have broader implications for limiting how much courts can order businesses to pay. The decision was hailed by the business community and decried by environmentalists and Alaskans. The court ruled that the victims of the worst oil spill in U.S. history may collect punitive damages from Exxon Mobil Corp. that amount to an average of $15,000 for each person who filed a claim against the energy company.

Oil drops on report of higher oil stockpiles, Fed

NEW YORK (AP)—Oil futures fell sharply Wednesday after the Energy Department said the nation's supplies of fuel and oil were larger than expected last week—evidence that the soaring price for gasoline has sliced into Americans' demand for fuel. The Federal Reserve's decision to hold interest rates steady had little impact on trading. At the pump, gas prices inched lower but remain entrenched above $4 a gallon. Light, sweet crude for August delivery fell $2.45 to settle at $134.55 on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

AmEx sees worsening credit conditions

NEW YORK (AP)—American Express Co. has ended another round of litigation with a rival card company, but still faces serious headwinds from its customers.

After announcing Wednesday that it will be getting $1.8 billion from MasterCard Inc. in settlement of an antitrust suit, the credit card lender—known for catering to jet-setters and the well-heeled—revealed that it has again underestimated how quickly its cardholders are falling behind on their debt.

"Business conditions continue to weaken in the U.S. and so far this month we have seen credit indicators deteriorate beyond our expectations," said AmEx Chief Executive Kenneth Chenault in a statement.

The rocky consumer climate comes amid a tough legal period for credit card companies, which are battling among themselves and with federal authorities around the world over various rules and fees. Wednesday's settlement was seen by industry experts as positive for both companies—mainly because the $1.8 billion figure was close to expectations, and because the two companies can now put the litigation behind them.

MasterCard shares rose $9.42, or 3.4 percent, to $289.79 Wednesday. American Express had accused the Purchase, N.Y.-based credit and debit card processor of conspiring to discourage some banks from issuing its credit cards.

MasterCard said it agreed to make 12 quarterly payments of $150 million to American Express, and plans to book a $1 billion charge related to the settlement in the current fiscal quarter.

"We are pleased to have reached a settlement that will enable us to keep our strong balance sheet intact," MasterCard Chief Executive Robert Selander said in a statement. The settlement, Selander said, was in the best interest of shareholders because it removed "the uncertainty, time commitment and expense of a prolonged court case."

Craig Maurer, an analyst with Calyon Securities Inc., agreed, and noted that MasterCard was able to structure its settlement more favorably than Visa Inc. did when it reached a similar suit last year for $2.7 billion—Visa agreed to pay $1.15 billion up front.

No ending seen on global reliance on oil, fossil fuel

WASHINGTON (AP)—World energy demand will grow 50 percent over the next two decades, oil prices could rise to $186 a barrel and coal will remain the biggest source of electricity despite its effect on global warming, government experts predict.

The Energy Information Administration's long-range forecast to 2030 said the world is not close to abandoning fossil fuels. They will continue to be at the core of energy production in transportation and electricity generation, according to the report released Wednesday.

It said the steepest increases in energy use will come in China and other developing economies, including some in the Middle East and Africa, where energy demand is expected to be 85 percent greater in 2030 than it is today.

"What jumps out is the very strong growth in the emerging economies," said Guy Caruso, the head of the agency that serves as the government statistical and forecasting arm on energy.

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When bad employers happen to good people

By MARY ELLEN SLAYTER
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When a company's reputation nose-dives, it can also bring down the standing of anyone who worked there—unfairly or not.

WASHINGTON—When a company's reputation nose-dives, it can also bring down the standing of anyone who worked there—unfairly or not.

Sales consultant Sidney Sclar knows all about such bad luck. Three of his former employers have gone out of business, including one that was shut down last year by Maryland's attorney general.

It's a pattern that jumps out at anyone looking at his resume and one that has caused him difficulty, he said, even though he had no part in any wrongdoing. "I never lost any money for anyone," Sclar said.

Yet the challenge is also one that plenty of other job hunters have faced and overcome.

The secret to getting your career back on track after working for a notorious employer, career advisers say, is to explain your tenure at the sullied organization honestly and diplomatically.

Under no circumstances should you just drop the sketchy employer from your resume.

Besides being dishonest, pretending you didn't work somewhere creates a gaping hole in your employment history, said Bruce Weinstein, who writes the Ethics Guy column for BusinessWeek.com. "If you don't volunteer the information, they'll have to pry it out."

And that will just make you look worse.

Instead, you want to share MORE information on your resume, said Susan Strayer, a human resources executive and author of "The Right Job, Right Now."

"Be specific about where you worked" if that helps, said Strayer, whose own career included a stint at Arthur Andersen, which folded after it was tangled up in the Enron scandal. "For example, the Andersen incident happened in the Houston office in the accounting arm of the business. My resume makes it clear I worked in the D.C. office in the consulting side of the business."

And don't let your embarrassment about the company's fate cause you to play down your achievements there. "Include strong, detailed, results-oriented bullets for your job there," Strayer said. "Don't minimize the work you did or the results you achieved just because the company no longer exists. You still want to demonstrate how what you did there could help the company you're applying to."

Once you land an interview, be prepared to keep explaining things—for the rest of your career.

"Your experience may be a talking point in an interview no matter when you worked there," Strayer said. "It has been many years since I worked at Arthur Andersen, but interviewers love to talk about it because it's both interesting and controversial."

Take care not to come across as too negative, even as you distance yourself from any illegal or unethical behavior. "Be extremely professional if asked about how you feel about it or your take on what happened," Strayer said. "Focus on your workplace values and how important it is to report impropriety and remain ethical at all times. Avoid a discussion about placing blame or berating the professionals who played a role. Certainly you can indicate you were disappointed in the actions some of your colleagues chose to take, but focus more on what we can learn from companies and professionals in these situations."

In conversations, just as on your resume, "focus on what you did, the results that were achieved, and how that experience has prepared you well for the position for which you are interviewing," Strayer said.

Finally, as you're defending your reputation, don't forget to scrutinize that of your potential employer, lest you wind up in Sclar's situation, with a string of problems.

"You have to be really diligent," said Trudy McCrea, chief executive of Achieve-It, a recruiting, consulting and executive coaching firm. Investigate the firm's financial stability, as well as the background of people in leadership positions. "I've done Dun & Bradstreet searches on employers," she said, referring to the credit agency for businesses.

Before you accept an offer, ask to talk to customers, as well as to people who have worked at the company before, she said. Through social-networking sites such as LinkedIn, making such contacts can be relatively easy.

Ask about employee turnover, McCrea said. "Some employers just burn through people," and it's not always because of the money.

Keep your digital persona clean

By MARY ELLEN SLAYTER
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

If you're looking for a job, you should be mindful of who might be looking for you online. Many employers now routinely check out potential hires on social networking sites, for example. Here are a few tips from Yahoo's Web Life Expert, Heather Cabot, on how to keep your digital persona clean:

■ Keep tabs on yourself. Regularly search for your own name and e-mail addresses.

■ Be a picky joiner. "Membership in the 'I heart beer pong!' club doesn't send the right signals to future employers," Cabot says.

■ Emphasize the positive. You can control what's on your profiles and home page, so play up membership in professional groups and volunteer activities.

■■■

People often forget that a job interview is also their chance to quiz potential employers. And asking the right questions can be the difference between starting the perfect job—or a perfect nightmare. So, what should you ask? Here are some useful questions to ask at your next interview:

■ Where is the last person who held this job? Obviously this won't apply if it's a new position; otherwise, the answer can be very revealing about the job's career potential. Did the last person get promoted? Move to a competitor? A related question: How many people have held this job in the past five years?

■ How flexible are the work hours? If there's an official policy that supports telecommuting and alternate work hours, do workers take advantage of it?

■ What do you enjoy most about working here? Part of the interviewer's job is to enthusiastically sell you on the employer, so if they have any hesitation in answering this question, probe more deeply before accepting an offer there.

Ask questions even before you interview

By MARY ELLEN SLAYTER
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Q: My fiance suggested I try to set up an "informational interview." I had never heard of this. How might I go about getting one?

A: Look for people who have jobs similar to the one you want. Alumni groups and trade associations are a great way to find such people. Send them an e-mail, asking to meet for coffee. If they agree, ask lots of questions about their jobs and how they got them. Ask for their advice. What you don't do is ask them for a job.

■■■

Q: I have had about seven different jobs in my life. I'm 29 years old, and they were all in different fields. I have been a stay-at-home mom for two years. I don't have a diploma, GED or college degree, but I do have management experience, and any and every kind of experience you can think of. How do I get the career I want without lying on my resume?

A: Start by going back to school. Get your GED, then head to community college ... you can transfer to a four-year university after two years.

■■■

Q: Any advice for the new employee? I have been in the workforce for a while, but this is only my second real job, and I am nervous about meeting new people, fitting in, etc.

A: Listen more than you talk, and pay close attention to the culture of your workplace, not just the details of how to perform your specific job.

Edited questions from Career Tracks, an online discussion about workplace issues.

DOLLARS AND SENSE

Home freezers

By DAVID UFFINGTON
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

A home freezer can be a good bargain over the long term, but buying a freezer also can be a major expense.

A home freezer can be a good bargain over the long term, but buying a freezer also can be a major expense.

Here are some things to consider in deciding whether having a freezer is the right move for you.

Determine how much capacity you'll need. Rule of thumb is to multiply the number of family members by 1.5 cubic feet, adding more to the calculation if you'll be adding large quantities of meat from hunting or bulk buys, or if you'll be freezing vegetables from a large garden.

Read the EnergyStar rating labels for the amount of energy the freezer will use, and multiply by the kilowatt hour cost (you'll find that on your electric bill) to determine your costs to run the freezer.

Consider the styles—upright and chest—and the pros and cons for both.

Upright freezers are shaped like a refrigerator and therefore take up less floor space. Since they open from the front, it's easier to find what you want, but bulky items can be hard to store. Uprights usually cost a bit more than the chest style, but most are self-defrosting. When you open the door of an upright freezer, your cold air spills out onto the floor, which adds to your energy cost.

Chest freezers are more energy efficient because the cold air doesn't escape when you open the top. Most are manual defrost, which saves energy, but can be an unwanted chore. It can be difficult to find items that are at the bottom.

Options you'll want to consider:

■ A lock with key for safety around children

■ Self-defrost

■ Magnetic door seal

■ Interior light

■ A defrost drain for manual defrost

■ Adjustable temperature control

■ Warranty and on-site service

Don't buy more freezer than you need, due to the operating costs. Freezers work best if filled most of the way. With a too-big freezer, you'll pay extra for the freezer and then again every month when your electric bill comes due.

A freezer can be a money saver if it means fewer trips to the store—less gas, less impulse buying—or that you won't eat out as often. But consider your actual usage to determine if it will be worth your while to own one.

Nation

345 arrested, kids rescued in prostitution busts

WASHINGTON (AP)—Hundreds of people have been arrested and 21 children rescued in what the FBI is calling a five-day roundup of networks of pimps who force children into prostitution.

The Justice Department says it targeted 16 cities as part of its "Operation Cross Country" that caps off five years of similar stings nationwide.

Many of the children forced into prostitution are either runaways or what authorities call "thrown-aways"—kids whose families have shunned them. Officials say they are preyed upon by organized networks of pimps who lure them in with shelter or drugs, then often beat, starve or otherwise abuse them until the children agree to work the streets.

"We together have no higher calling than to protect our children and to safeguard their innocence," FBI Director Robert Mueller said Wednesday. "Yet the sex trafficking of children remains one of the most violent and unforgivable crimes in this country."

In all, authorities arrested 345 people—including 290 adult prostitutes—during the operation that ended this week. Since 2003, 308 pimps and hookers have been convicted in state and federal courts of forcing youngsters into prostitution, and 433 child victims have been rescued, Mueller said.

The cities targeted in this week's sting are: Atlanta; Boston; Dallas; Detroit; Houston; Las Vegas; Los Angeles; Miami; Montgomery County, Md.; Oakland, Calif.; Phoenix; Reno, Nev.; Sacramento, Calif.; Tampa; Toledo, Ohio and Washington.

The problem of child prostitution has taken on a new urgency in recent years with the growth of online networks where pimps advertise the youngsters to clients. The FBI generally investigates child prostitution cases that cross state lines.

The cases aren't easy to convict.

In April 2006, for example, charges against a Nevada man resulted in a hung jury after his 14-year-old victim refused to testify against him. Months later, however, a second jury found Juan Rico Doss of Reno, Nev., guilty of forcing two girls—ages 14 and 16—to sell sex in Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Francisco and Oakland.

Ky. gunman argued with boss over phone, goggles

HENDERSON, Ky. (AP)—A 25-year-old press operator shot and killed five co-workers and himself at a plastics plant in rural western Kentucky just hours after arguing with his supervisor about not wearing safety goggles and using his cell phone while on the assembly line, police said Wednesday.

Authorities said Wesley N. Higdon of Henderson was so riled by the argument with his supervisor that he called his girlfriend and told her that he wanted to kill his boss. The girlfriend didn't warn anyone, police said, and just two hours later, Higdon argued with another co-worker then shot and killed his supervisor as they walked outside. Then, he returned and shot at co-workers in a break room and on the plant floor.

A man who called 911 frantically described the violent scene to a dispatcher, tallying up the number of dead around him.

"There's more than two people dead. There's like one, two, three, four, five people dead," the man said. "The supervisor is dead, too."

Authorities said Higdon was known to keep a .45-caliber pistol in his car, which is not illegal in Kentucky.

The first shooting took place as the supervisor was escorting him from the building. Other co-workers were shot in the break room and on the plant floor. One worker was injured and was being treated in the critical care unit at St. Mary's Hospital and Medical Center in Evansville, Ind.

"He just walked in, looked like he meant business and started shooting at everybody," Henderson Police Sgt. John Nevels said at a news conference.

The killings stunned the Ohio River town of about 28,000 people, where a local leader said many residents know or are related to a worker at the plant. The plant, operated by Atlanta-based Atlantis plastics, employs about 160 people and makes parts for refrigerators and plastic siding for homes.

Henderson County Coroner Bruce Farmer identified the supervisor as Kevin G. Taylor, 30, of Dixon. The slain co-workers were Trisha Mirelez, 25, Rachael Vasquez, 26, and Joshua Hinojosa, 28, all of Sebree; and Israel Monroy, 29, of Henderson. The hospitalized survivor was identified as Monroy's sister, Noelia Monroy.

Briton convicted of murdering wife, baby in Mass.

WOBURN, Mass. (AP)—A British man who fled the U.S. after his wife and baby were shot to death was convicted of murder Wednesday by a jury that rejected defense claims that the mother killed her daughter and herself as they snuggled in bed.

Neil Entwistle, 29, closed his eyes and shook his head slightly upon being found guilty of two counts of first-degree murder in the deaths of his wife, Rachel, 27, and their 9-month-old baby, Lillian Rose.

His parents immediately maintained their son's innocence and said he had not received a fair trial.

"We know that our son Neil is innocent, and we are devastated to learn that the evidence points to Rachel murdering our grandchild and then committing suicide," his mother, Yvonne Entwistle, said outside the Middlesex Superior Court.

"I knew Rachel was depressed. Our son will now go to jail for loving, honoring and protecting his wife's memory," she said.

Middlesex District Attorney Gerry Leone, standing with Rachel's family, including her mother and stepfather, Priscilla and Joseph Matterazzo, condemned Entwistle for "disparaging the memory of his wife and vilifying the entire Matterazzo family by his decisions during the course of this trial."

Prosecutors allege Entwistle was in debt and dissatisfied with his sex life when he shot his family with Joseph Matterazzo's gun in January 2006. He then traveled 50 miles to return the gun to the Matterazzos' home and bought a one-way airline ticket home to England. He was extradited less than a month later.

AP

Mario Roberto Munz works in the late afternoon smokey air at Tierra Vegetable in Santa Rosa, Ca. Wednesday June 25, 2008.

ACROSS THE NATION

Bush, Talabani discuss complex Iraq security deal

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Bush and Iraq's president expressed cautious optimism Wednesday about prospects for completing a complex agreement that would keep U.S. troops in Iraq after a U.N. mandate expires at year-end. Bush said the U.S. was working on an agreement that "suits" the Iraqi government. Iraqi President Jalal Talabani, speaking in the Oval Office after meeting with Bush, cited recent progress and said he hoped it could be finished "very soon." U.S. and Iraqi authorities are trying to meet a July target date for completing the security agreement.

Air Force colonel acquitted of rape at Texas base

WICHITA FALLS, Texas (AP)—An Air Force colonel was acquitted Wednesday of raping a civilian worker but convicted of indecent assault and other charges involving two other women at Sheppard Air Force Base. Col. Samuel Lofton III, the base's former 82nd Training Group commander, faced up to life in prison if he had been convicted of rape. The indecent assault charges each carry a maximum sentence of five years; he was also convicted of two counts of conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman, which carries a possible one-year sentence. When the verdicts were read, the woman who said she was raped ran out, while another civilian worker who had accused him of assault cried and hugged her relatives.

Leonid Hurwicz, oldest Nobel winner, dies at 90

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Leonid Hurwicz, who shared the Nobel Prize in economics last year for developing a theory that helps explain how buyers and sellers can maximize their gains, has died at age 90, a spokesman said Wednesday. Hurwicz died Tuesday of natural causes, said Mark Cassutt, spokesman for the University of Minnesota, where Hurwicz was an emeritus economics professor. Hurwicz had been in a Minneapolis hospital and had been on kidney dialysis, Cassutt said. At age 90, he was the oldest person ever to win a Nobel, according to the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. He shared his prize with Eric S. Maskin, a professor at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, N.J.; and Roger B. Myerson, 56, a professor at the University of Chicago.

Judge says Navy SEAL's confession is credible

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (AP)—A confession by a former Navy SEAL trainee convicted of killing a Georgia college student is credible, a judge ruled Wednesday, bolstering an effort to exonerate the trainee's co-defendant. Dustin Turner and fellow trainee Billy Joe Brown were sentenced to lengthy prison terms for the 1995 murder of Jennifer Evans, an Emory University student. But Brown testified last month that he had become a Christian while in prison and decided to admit that he alone committed the killing. Circuit Judge Frederick Lowe said a state appeals court should consider whether Brown's recent confession would have changed the outcome of Turner's trial.

Calif. scrambles to fight wildfires

BERKELEY, Calif. (AP)—Hundreds of homes in the scenic community of Big Sur were threatened by a wildfire that already had burned 16 residences and was just 3 percent contained Wednesday.

About 700 wildfires, many of them sparked by a severe electrical storm over the weekend, burned across much of the state, a point driven home for Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger as he traveled to central California to assess the damage there.

"I just took off with the plane down from Los Angeles and, literally from Los Angeles all the way up here, there was smoke, so you can see that there's fire everywhere," Schwarzenegger noted at a news conference in Monterey County.

Firefighters scrambled to tame the lightning-sparked wildfire in the Los Padres National Forest that has burned nearly 30 square miles near the coast about a mile south of Big Sur.

"Unfortunately, this fire is in an area that is going to be very difficult to stop, and expectations are there won't be any stopping this fire any time soon," said Mark Savage, a spokesman for the U.S. Forest Service.

The state's largest fire was about 20 miles east in a more remote area of the Los Padres forest. It also vexed firefighters, having scorched more than 92 square miles and destroyed two homes. The blaze, sparked by an escaped campfire on June 8, was about 71 percent contained.

Monterey sheriff's officials said mandatory evacuation orders were in place for both fires, but could not specify how many people were forced from their homes. The Monterey County fires have cost $33 million to fight so far.

The governor also stopped Wednesday in Butte County, where 27 lightning-sparked fires covering about 8 square miles were threatening 1,000 homes. The blazes, which were only 5 percent contained, cropped up just as the county was recovering from a fire that charred 74 homes and 36 square miles earlier this month.

Schwarzenegger announced Wednesday that he allotted $20 million in emergency funds to help Butte County fight fire.

Several blazes also were burning in New Mexico, where a fire in thick trees in the Manzano Mountains prompted officials Wednesday to urge hundreds of people to leave their homes in and near Tajique, about 30 miles southeast of Albuquerque. About four dozen homes in the area burned in a wildfire last month.

'Constitution bars death for child rapists'

AP

Reporters work in front of the Supreme Court after a ruling which struck down a Louisiana law that allows the execution of people convicted of a raping a child.

By MARK SHERMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. Supreme Court has declared that executions are too severe a punishment for raping children, despite the "years of long anguish" that victims face.

The ruling restricts the death penalty to murder and crimes against the state.

The top U.S. court's 5-4 decision struck down a Louisiana law that allowed capital punishment for people convicted of raping children under 12. It spares the only people in the United States under sentence of death for that crime, two men convicted of raping 5-year-old and 8-year-old girls.

The ruling also invalidates laws on the books in five other states that allowed executions for child rape that does not result in the death of the victim.

However devastating the crime to children, Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote in his majority opinion, "the death penalty is not a proportional punishment for the rape of a child." His four liberal colleagues joined him, while the four more conservative justices dissented.

There has not been an execution in the United States for a crime that did not also involve the death of the victim in 44 years, a factor that weighed in Kennedy's decision.

Rape and other crimes "may be as devastating in their harm, as here, but 'in terms of moral depravity and of the injury to the person and to the public,' they cannot be compared to murder in their 'severity and irrevocability,'" Kennedy said, quoting from earlier decisions.

The victim in the case decided Wednesday was an 8-year-old girl raped by her stepfather at their home in Louisiana, near New Orleans.

Angry Louisianans who backed the law said the court was out of touch.

"The opinion reads more like an out-of-control legislative debate than a constitutional analysis," said Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, a Republican. "One thing is clear: The five members of the court who issued the opinion do not share the same 'standards of decency' as the people of Louisiana."

The decision resonated in the presidential campaign, too, where both Republican John McCain and Democrat Barack Obama objected to it. Obama said there should be no blanket prohibition of the death penalty for the rape of children if states want to apply it in those cases. McCain called the ruling "an assault on law enforcement's efforts to punish these heinous felons for the most despicable crime."

With the court already on record this term reaffirming the constitutionality of capital punishment in a case dealing with lethal injection, Kennedy dwelt at length on the need to limit the death penalty to the most heinous killings.

The decision allows death sentences to continue to be imposed for crimes such as treason, espionage and terrorism, which Kennedy labeled as crimes against the state.

The Supreme Court banned executions for rape in 1977 in a case in which the victim was an adult woman.

Forty-four states prohibit the death penalty for any kind of rape, and at least four states besides Louisiana permit it for child rape—Montana, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Texas. There's disagreement over the status of a Georgia law permitting execution for child rape, although Kennedy said in his ruling that it was still in effect.

The court struggled over how to apply standards laid out in decisions barring executions for the mentally retarded and people younger than 18 when they committed murder. In those cases, the court cited trends in the states away from capital punishment.

In this case, proponents of the Louisiana law said the trend was toward the death penalty, a point mentioned by Justice Samuel Alito in his dissent.

Some lawmakers angered by death penalty ruling

The efforts of nearly a dozen states to execute child rapists were derailed Wednesday by a Supreme Court decision that incensed supporters of such punishment. Officials in at least two states said they weren't ready to give up.

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal called the ruling "a clear abuse of judicial authority" and vowed state officials will "evaluate ways to amend our statute to maintain death as a penalty for this horrific crime." In Oklahoma, state senator Jay Paul Gumm promised similar efforts. "We will certainly look at what options we have," Gumm said. "I think the people of Oklahoma have spoken loudly that this is one of the most heinous of crimes."

Five states have laws that explicitly permit such executions. At issue before the high court was a Louisiana case involving Patrick Kennedy, sentenced to die for raping his 8-year-old stepdaughter in her bed in 1998, an assault so severe she required surgery.

Obama disagrees with high court on child rape case

CHICAGO (AP)—Democrat Barack Obama said Wednesday he disagrees with the Supreme Court's decision outlawing executions of people who rape children, a crime he said states have the right to consider for capital punishment.

"I have said repeatedly that I think that the death penalty should be applied in very narrow circumstances for the most egregious of crimes," Obama said at a news conference. "I think that the rape of a small child, 6 or 8 years old, is a heinous crime and if a state makes a decision that under narrow, limited, well-defined circumstances the death penalty is at least potentially applicable, that that does not violate our Constitution."

Obama, the likely Democratic presidential nominee, said that had the court "said we want to constrain the abilities of states to do this to make sure that it's done in a careful and appropriate way, that would have been one thing. But it basically had a blanket prohibition and I disagree with that decision."

Obama has two daughters, ages 7 and 9.

Heavy security as grand jury looks into Texas sect

ELDORADO, Texas (AP)—Women and girls in prairie dresses entered a courthouse surrounded by dozens of law enforcement officers in this tiny ranching hamlet Wednesday as a grand jury opened its investigation into a polygamist sect accused of forcing underage girls into marriage and motherhood.

The main square in Eldorado was cordoned off with yellow police tape. A sheriff's department worker snapped photos of anyone who stood by or attempted to talk to sect members who arrived at the courthouse Wednesday and may be grand jury witnesses.

One witness subpoenaed to testify is a 16-year-old girl who denies state claims that she was married off at 15 and had a child soon after. She has asked for a new lawyer, claiming her court-appointed lawyer is lying about her.

Grand jury proceedings are supposed to be secret, but news of the meeting and the girl's subpoena have been disclosed in other court proceedings related to one of the largest custody cases in U.S. history. The girl is a daughter of Warren Jeffs, considered a prophet by members of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

The girl and her mother said in a brief interview with The Associated Press they were told law enforcement would be testifying in the morning. They came back in the afternoon for possible testimony.

"I don't want to do it," said the girl, shuffling her feet under a dark blue pioneer dress.

She said she doesn't know what she'll be asked. Her mother added, "We just kind of wonder what it's all about."

The Associated Press does not generally identify alleged victims of sex abuse.

The girl had a light moment as she waited at a picnic table outside the courthouse with several other young female FLDS members. She persuaded the others to help pull the table over to a large live oak tree, which she scrambled up to a height of about three stories while the others snapped photos with their cell phones and laughed.

The girl's attorney, Natalie Malonis, won an extension of a restraining order against FLDS elder Willie Jessop at a hearing Tuesday. Malonis claims Jessop is influencing the girl to be uncooperative, an accusation he denies.

Corn farmers' hopes are dashed by the flood

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—This year's corn crop was Bill Talsma's lottery ticket—a potentially record-setting haul worth millions.

Then came the flood.

The raging rivers and streams destroyed nearly a quarter of the crop Talsma and his brother were growing on about 75 percent of their 9,000 acres in Iowa, and drenching rains damaged the rest. Had all his corn come in, Talsma could have seen a profit of as much as $6 million.

Now, he will be lucky to bring home a fraction of that.

"I was counting on this being one of my best years ever, but now it's one that you just want to get behind you," the 50-year-old Talsma said.

Across the Corn Belt states of Iowa, Illinois and Missouri, many farmers are looking at a bleak harvest after a planting season that started out with the promise of great riches.

The reason farmers were optimistic: Corn prices have been climbing to all-time highs in recent months—from $3.75 per bushel in mid-2007 to $7.25 in the past few days—because of increased demand from livestock producers, overseas markets and the ethanol industry, which relies almost entirely on corn.

But a wet, cold spring tamped down expectations of a bumper crop. Then came the flooding.

AP

A mailbox sticks out of the water near a flooded corn field Tuesday, June 24, 2008, in St. Charles, Mo.

In Iowa, the No. 1 corn-producing state, the Iowa Farm Bureau has pegged the corn losses at $1.5 billion, plus $1.5 billion in soybean losses. It is still unclear how much damage the corn crop has suffered nationwide, because the flooding is not over.

"That's the big question of the hour," said Pat Westhoff, an economist with the Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute at the University of Missouri.

Consumers will see the effects in higher food and ethanol prices. But for farmers it's more personal.

Although the water has receded from Talsma's land, thick mud and large ponds of water remain. Corn that should be waist-high has barely poked out of the ground in some of Talsma's low-lying fields along Interstate 80 east of Des Moines. The plants in the fields where the water has drained are sickly looking and probably won't grow to maturity.

The flooded land cannot be replanted with corn this late in the growing season, since an early frost in the fall could damage or kill the crop and waste any money spent on replanting. As for growing something else, it is still too wet in many fields to plant soybeans.

The math is brutal: With corn selling for $7.25 per bushel, and a reasonable yield of 180 bushels per acre, Talsma and his brother should have cleared about $1,300 an acre.

Asia

US divers join Philippine rescue efforts

SAN FERNANDO, Philippines (AP)—Bodies in life jackets washed up on nearby islands and drifted at sea Wednesday as more than 100 divers, including U.S. servicemen, joined the grim work of searching the inside of a Philippine ferry that capsized during a powerful typhoon.

While the divers have only found dead bodies so far, officials were unwilling to give up hope of finding more survivors among the more than 800 people missing since the seven-story ferry listed and went down Saturday.

"I am still hoping for a miracle. I am hoping for a miraculous air pocket somewhere in the ship," said Transportation Undersecretary Maria Elena Bautista, head of a government task force.

Bautista said 95 Filipino and eight American divers were taking part in the search.

Four U.S. Navy rubber boats carrying the U.S. divers went to the site Wednesday morning. Five ships, a P3 surveillance plane, two Navy HH-60 helicopters and a pilotless surveillance plane also were deployed by the U.S. military to help search for bodies and possible survivors.

The disaster could raise Typhoon Fengshen's death toll to more than 1,300, with 329 people confirmed dead from flooding and landslides and more than 200 missing.

Only four dozen survivors have been found so far. Three more bodies wearing life vests believed to be from the ship washed up Wednesday on Burias island, 55 miles (90 kilometers) away, while ships were dispatched to pick up groups of up to 55 bodies spotted by surveillance aircraft.

Coast guard spokesman Lt. Cmdr Arman Balilo said they were getting "a lot of reports" of sightings, but were not including them in the official death toll "until we have control of the bodies."

Just the tip of the bow of the 23,824-ton *Princess of the Stars* ferry was jutting from the water. The storm's aftermath kept rescue workers away until calm, sunny conditions Tuesday allowed divers to slither inside for the first time.

Coast guard Lt. Cmdr Inocencio Rosario said he dove to examine the rear end of the ship and found it resting and stable on the seabed 120 feet (36 meters) underwater.

Because of the difficult and dangerous operations inside the ferry, which went belly up in the rough seas, only three bodies were retrieved Wednesday.

Bautista said Sulpicio Lines, owner of the vessel, will siphon off the estimated 71,300 gallons (270,000 liters) of the ferry's fuel oil.

AP

U.S. Navy divers conduct search and rescue operation for the sunken passenger ferry, the MV Princess of the Stars, off Sibuyan Sea in central Philippines on Wednesday, June 25, 2008.

US to watch destruction of N. Korean reactor

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A U.S. diplomat will head to North Korea to watch the communist nation blow up the cooling tower at its main nuclear reactor, a South Korean official said Wednesday.

Sung Kim, the top U.S. State Department expert on Korea, will travel Thursday to North Korea for the planned destruction of the cooling tower at its Yongbyon nuclear reactor, an official at South Korea's Foreign Ministry said. He spoke on condition of anonymity, citing ministry policy.

The U.S. Embassy confirmed Kim had arrived in Seoul on Tuesday night and was heading to North Korea on Thursday.

It has not been confirmed when North Korea will blow up the 65-foot-tall tower. Media reports have said it will occur Friday, a day after North Korea is expected to submit a long-delayed list of its nuclear programs.

North Korea has invited foreign TV stations to broadcast the tower's destruction to demonstrate its plan to give up its nuclear ambitions.

The cooling tower is a key element of the reactor, but its destruction at this point does not have much meaning because the reactor has already been nearly disabled so it cannot be easily restarted to produce plutonium for bombs.

North Korea agreed last year in negotiations with the United States and four other nations to disable the reactor and other key Yongbyon facilities, and fully account for all its nuclear programs.

However, it failed to meet an end-of-2007 deadline to declare its nuclear programs.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Olympics could be a bust for Beijing hotels

BEIJING (AP)—The Olympics are looking like a bust for the city's hotels. The 17-day games were supposed to generate a buzz throughout the summer, leading to a tourism windfall with fully booked hotels and free-spending customers. Instead, Beijing's summer tourism season has been slow, and hotels and travel agencies say many potential visitors are being put off by tightened visa rules and scarce tickets to Olympic events. Others could be reluctant to book trips because China's authoritarian government seems more concerned with keeping out foreigners than welcoming them to the games. The lack of reservations could shake the city's hotel industry, which has more than doubled its five- and four-star hotels offerings to 160 since Beijing was awarded the Olympics seven years ago.

Afghanistan blames Pakistan in Karzai attack

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—An Afghan official on Wednesday accused Pakistan's premier spy agency of organizing a recent assassination attempt on Afghan President Hamid Karzai, the most serious in a string of allegations against Pakistan. The charge bodes ill for American efforts to get Pakistan's new government to work with Karzai's embattled administration to counter Islamic militants on their common border. Karzai escaped unharmed when assailants fired guns and mortars toward the president, senior officials and foreign diplomats during a military parade in downtown Kabul on April 27. Three Afghans were killed.

India can't settle impasse over US nuke deal

NEW DELHI (AP)—A meeting Wednesday between the Indian government and its communist allies failed to settle an impasse over a landmark nuclear deal with the United States. Faced with a choice of breaking with the communists and heading to early elections or abandoning the deal, seen as a cornerstone in the strengthening partnership between New Delhi and Washington, the government chose to stall for more time. "The committee completed its discussions on all aspects of the Indo-U.S. civil nuclear cooperation agreement. The next meeting of the committee, to be convened in due course, will finalize its findings," said Indian Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee, reading from a terse prepared statement after the meeting.

Myanmar cyclone survivors proved tough, experts say

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—Dire warnings that cyclone survivors in Myanmar might fall prey to disease and starvation failed to take into account the survival instincts of those affected, aid agencies and disaster experts say. The resilience of the people—along with the skills of Myanmar citizens working for local and international humanitarian agencies—proved to be the most critical survival weapons and helped mitigate the limited access allowed to foreign disaster experts, they said. U.N. agencies and private humanitarian groups agree a feared second wave of post-cyclone casualties did not take place.

SKorea lifts ban on US beef imports

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea has lifted a U.S. beef import ban, imposed amid widespread protest over concerns about mad cow disease. Public Administration Ministry official Chang Su-wan said his ministry issued a legal notice on the ban Thursday, which was the final step in implementing a new trade accord with the United States. The new agreement restricts U.S. exports to South Korea to younger cattle, which are considered at less risk of carrying the brain wasting disease. U.S. beef has been banned from South Korea for most of the past four and a half years, since the first case of mad cow disease in the U.S. was discovered in late 2003.

China reopens Tibet to foreign tourists

BEIJING (AP)—Tibet reopened to foreign tourists on Wednesday, three months after the Chinese government banned such visits in the wake of violent anti-government riots and protests that tainted the image of the country ahead of the Olympics.

The first foreign tourists, a retired Swedish couple, arrived at the airport near the capital, Lhasa, on Wednesday, said Tibetan Tourism Bureau spokesman Liao Lisheng.

"Tibet is open now to all travelers from home and abroad," he said.

Kurt Persson, 77, and Eva Sandstrom, 62, were welcomed with traditional Tibetan white silk scarves at their hotel near the sacred Jokhang Temple, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

"We've been looking forward to visiting Tibet for many years. Its monasteries and landscapes are fascinating," Xinhua quoted Sandstrom as saying.

The five-day trip is their first to Tibet, Xinhua said. "We have no worries about the safety here," Sandstrom said. "The only worry was to get the permission to come."

The Himalayan region has been all but closed to the outside world since the biggest protests against Chinese rule in two decades exploded into rioting March 14 in Lhasa, leading Beijing to swiftly shut off the area.

Troops also flooded into predominantly Tibetan communities in nearby provinces, where sympathy demonstrations were occurring. They performed drills in town squares and set up checkpoints around sensitive areas. Officials said the restrictions were established for the safety of foreign tourists and journalists.

China says 22 people died in the anti-government protests. But overseas Tibet supporters say many times that number were killed in the riots and the resulting security crackdown.

A notice on the tourism bureau's Web site announcing the lifting of the ban said life in Lhasa had returned to normal.

"Tibet's society is stable and harmonious, its markets bustling, and its environment beautiful," it said.

But there are still signs of tension.

Child rescued after 22 hours in crevice in Nepal

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—A 12-year-old boy climbed hundreds of feet down into a crevice in a mountain gorge in western Nepal on Wednesday to rescue a 2-year-old girl who had fallen in 22 hours earlier, officials said.

The boy volunteered to clamber 200 feet into the narrow hole and bring the toddler, Aradhana Pradhan, back to safety, police official Rajendra Poudel said.

"I managed to reach her, tie a rope around her, free her and pull her out," Kamal Nepali told reporters at the local hospital where he and the girl were taken after the rescue.

Doctors at the Manipal Teaching Hospital in Pokhara, 125 miles west of Katmandu, said Pradhan was in stable condition.

Nepali volunteered to climb into the crevice after hearing that army and police rescuers had failed in their attempts.

Poudel said the boy is a gymnast in school.

Poudel said the gorge along the banks of the Seti river has several such deep crevices.

World

WORLD BRIEFS

UN expert: Deeper Syrian nuclear inquiry needed

VIENNA, Austria (AP)—An initial probe of U.S. allegations that a Syrian site hit by Israeli warplanes was a secretly built nuclear reactor is inconclusive and further checks are necessary, a senior U.N. atomic inspector said Wednesday. Olli Heinonen, a deputy director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, said he was satisfied with what was achieved on his four-day trip but "there is still work that needs to be done" in following up on the claims that Syria was hiding elements of a potential nuclear arms program. A senior Syrian official saw it differently, however. Vice President Farouk al-Sharaa told the Hezbollah-owned Al Manar TV station that his country allowed the inspectors to visit the site in the remote eastern desert to prove the accusations from Washington are false.

European envoy: Shut Guantanamo soon

PARIS (AP)—A top European critic of the Guantanamo Bay detention center said Wednesday that the next U.S. president should set a fixed timetable for closing down the controversial camp. Belgian senator Anne-Marie Lizin, a special envoy on Guantanamo for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, also said it appeared that a growing expectation that the next U.S. president would close the facility has fanned "friction" between detainees and their jailers. Her comments conflicted with an assessment by the detention center's new commander, Navy Rear Adm. David Thomas.

Pope returns to old way of distributing Communion

VATICAN CITY (AP)—A papal aide says Pope Benedict XVI intends to return to the old way of distributing Communion at Masses. Benedict's master of liturgical ceremonies said in an interview Wednesday in the Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano that the pontiff will place the Communion host in the mouths of the faithful who kneel before him. That's how Roman Catholics received Communion in the years before the modernizing reforms of the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s. The reforms made it possible for faithful to take the host in their hands while standing. Benedict gave Communion to kneeling faithful during his trip this month to southern Italy.

Israeli politicians avert elections

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel stepped back from the brink of political turmoil Wednesday after the two main parties in the ruling coalition hammered out a last-minute compromise to prevent the passage of a bill calling an election. This gives Prime Minister Ehud Olmert a few more months to pursue peace talks with the Palestinians and to try to win release of three captured soldiers. But the price was agreeing to a primary election in September that is likely to end his reign. Olmert's main coalition partner, Labor, was poised to vote in favor of a bill to dissolve the parliament and call elections Wednesday. Labor's support would have guaranteed approval, mostly symbolic at this stage because the bill would have needed to pass three more parliamentary votes to become law.

World condemnation of Zimbabwe grows

AP

A mourner attends the funeral of Abigail Chiroto, the wife of opposition mayor elect of Harare, Emmanuel Chiroto, in Harare Wednesday June 25, 2008. Chiroto and her four-year-old son were allegedly seized from their home in a suburb of Harare and taken taken to a nearby farming area where Chiroto's body was found. The four-year-old survived.

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP)—President Robert Mugabe faced deeper international isolation Wednesday, with African states demanding that a discredited runoff election be postponed and anti-apartheid icon Nelson Mandela rebuking the Zimbabwe leader for the first time.

Tougher sanctions, sporting bans and economic boycotts could be next—and world support may build for opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai, who called Wednesday for talks on power sharing.

Regional heads of state from southern Africa met in Swaziland and said Friday's runoff should be postponed until conditions permitted a free and fair vote.

President Bush said the runoff election appears to be a "sham," joining the international condemnation of Mugabe's actions.

In London, Mandela made a carefully worded but pointed attack on Mugabe, saying there has been a "tragic failure of leadership in our neighboring Zimbabwe."

The speech, at a fundraiser that included Prime Minister Gordon Brown and former President Bill Clinton, was the first time the former South African president has spoken publicly about the political crisis in Zimbabwe. His words are devastating for Mugabe and will weaken his claim to be a champion of African interests.

Although out of office for nearly a decade, Mandela remains a commanding and respected figure. He uses his influence sparingly, and it is particularly rare for him to publicly differ with South Africa's current president, Thabo Mbeki. South Africans and other Africans have been increasingly questioning Mbeki's leadership on Zimbabwe, so Mandela's brief but sharp comments will have particular resonance.

Zimbabwe has shortage of food, abundance of zeros

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—For many Zimbabweans, the chief worry is not political violence or President Robert Mugabe's iron hold on power. It's out-of-control inflation that puts anything more than a single daily meal beyond reach.

Underlying the current political crisis is an economic meltdown that has caused a shortage of food and all basic goods, while leaving the people an abundance of zeros.

The official inflation rate was put at 165,000 percent by the government in February, but independent estimates put the real figure closer to 4 million percent.

Zimbabwe is believed to be the only country in the world that now carries out routine financial transactions in dizzying set of quadrillions—one quadrillion is a 1 with 15 zeros behind it, or 1,000,000,000,000,000.

"It's gone completely crazy. Our computers and calculators can't deal with all the zeros even on the cheapest products," said Harare economic analyst David Moyo.

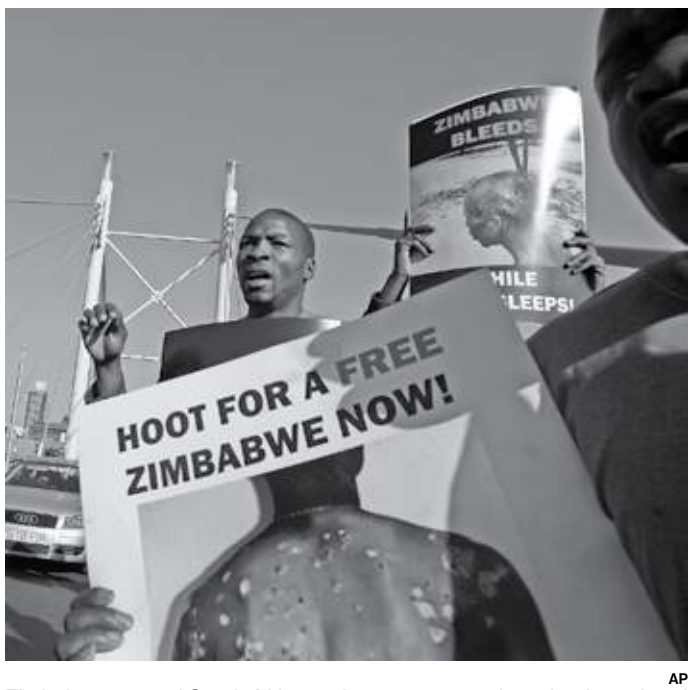
Brokers said this week that the Zimbabwe dollar broke the barrier of 10 billion to a single U.S. dollar in direct bank buying, while in electronic transfers, it exceeded 20 billion Zimbabwe dollars to $1 U.S.

Bread has disappeared from stores. Previously, a loaf in a supermarket cost 2 billion Zimbabwe dollars (20 U.S. cents at the official exchange rate), or 15 billion Zimbabwe dollars ($1.50 U.S.) on the black market, where prices of scarce items can vary up to 10 times higher.

A shopper lucky enough to find milk will spend 3 billion dollars (30 U.S. cents) for about 1 pint. A tray of 30 eggs, also scarce, can bought in a store for 45 billion dollars ($4.50 U.S.).

Butter is hard to find, but 17 1/2 ounces of margarine will cost 25 billion dollars ($2.50 U.S.) and a pack of 10 cookies costs 19 billion dollars ($1.90 U.S.).

Most stores and business across Zimbabwe have already knocked six zeros off price tags, showing 45,000 dollars for two pounds of scarce low grade beef—but at the cash register, it's tallied back at 45 billion dollars ($4.50 U.S.).



AP

Zimbabweans and South Africans demonstrate against election related violence in Zimbabwe on Nelson Mandela's Bridge downtown Johannesburg, South Africa, Wednesday June 25, 2008.

Saudi says 701 suspected militants arrested this year

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP)—Saudi authorities arrested 701 suspected al-Qaida-linked militants in 2008, some of whom planned a car bomb attack on an oil installation, the Interior Ministry said Wednesday.

The kingdom has previously reported arrests of large numbers of militants, including those linked to al-Qaida, but the figure released Wednesday was the highest to date.

Al-Qaida has called for attacks against the Saudi government, criticizing its alliance with the U.S. and hoping to disrupt the flow of oil to the West. The group has also labeled the government un-Islamic, even though the kingdom follows a strict interpretation of Islam known as Wahhabism.

State Department spokesman Tom Casey said the reports of the arrests were an indication "a lot more" needed to be done to combat terrorism worldwide.

"It's just another indication that al-Qaida and the terrorist groups out there remain, and remain a challenge, not only for the United States and for Saudi Arabia but for the broader region and, really, for the world," said Casey.

The 701 militants from various countries were arrested in multiple waves, but 181 were later released because there was no proof linking them to the terror network, according to a ministry statement carried by the official Saudi Press Agency. The remaining 520 are still in custody, it added.

US forces face spike in Iraq violence

BAGHDAD (AP)—Roadside bombs killed four U.S. soldiers in northern Iraq, the military said Wednesday, in a spike of violence that pushed to at least nine the number of Americans who have died here this week.

In the latest attack, one soldier was killed by an explosively formed penetrator, or EFP, about 9 a.m. Wednesday in the predominantly Shiite eastern half of Baghdad, the military said. The armor piercing bombs are believed to come from Iran and have been used by Shiite extremists to kill hundreds of American forces.

The U.S. military said three other U.S. soldiers and an Iraqi interpreter were killed late Tuesday by a roadside bomb in the northern Ninevah province, where al-Qaida in Iraq and other Sunni extremist groups remain active.

The four U.S. fatalities brought the monthly death toll for American troops in Iraq to at least 26—well below figures of last year but an increase over the 19 who died in May, the lowest monthly tally of the war.

Off the Wall

Crocodile welcomed into Aussie pub

DARWIN, Australia (AP)—Drinkers at an Outback watering hole may have wondered if perhaps they'd had one too many when they were greeted by a crocodile at the pub's door.

But being good hosts, they did the only polite thing and invited him inside.

The saltwater croc was just 2 feet long and more a curiosity than a threat to drinkers at the Noonamah Tavern on Sunday. The aggressive hunters can grow to more than 16 feet and have been known to attack people.

Barmaid Sarah Sparre said Thursday that three patrons spotted the creature outside the pub, grabbed it and brought it inside.

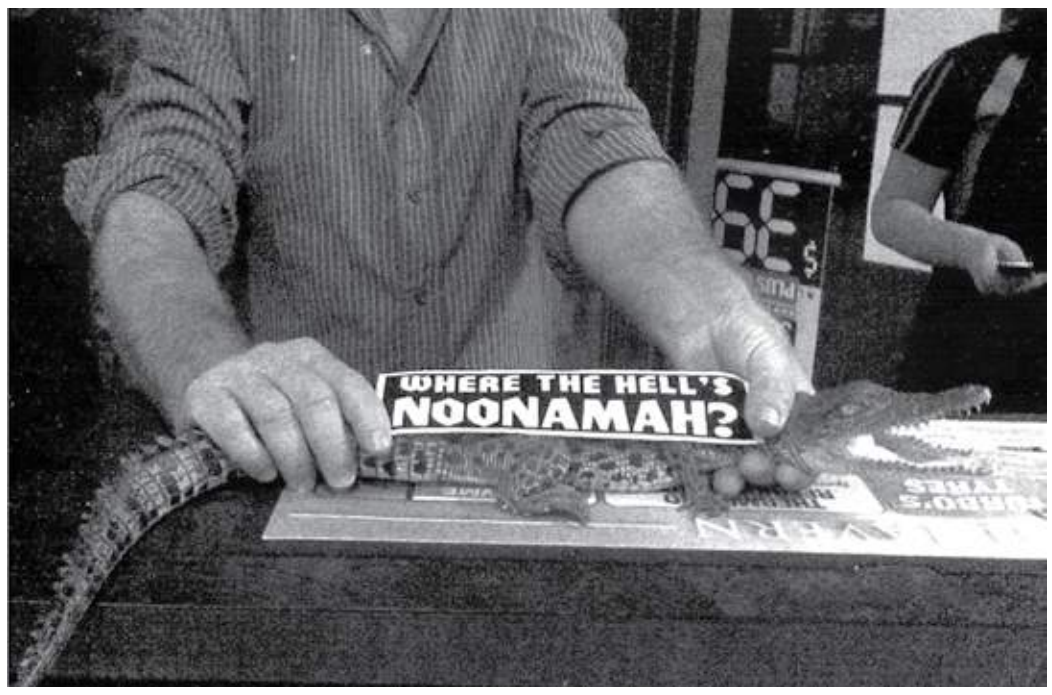
"You could say we were a bit surprised," Sparre said. "He was pretty complacent, easygoing. But we weren't going to test him out."

The three men taped up its mouth, held it up for a round of photos, then put it in a box near the bar.

Sparre said the croc may have escaped from a farm for the animals that was several miles away. Wildlife officials took the crocodile to the farm.

Noonamah boasts little more than a gas station and a bar on the main north-south highway through Australia, about 25 miles from the Northern Territory capital of Darwin.

Saltwater crocodiles, once hunted to near extinction by skinners, have flourished in Australia's tropical north since they became a protected species in the 1970s.



AP

A saltwater crocodile measuring just 2 feet long is held by a patron at the Noonamah Tavern, in Noonamah, Australia, Sunday, June 22, 2008. Saltwater crocodiles, once hunted to near extinction by skinners, have flourished in Australia's tropical north since they became a protected species in the 1970s.

Painting left at Goodwill fetches $40,000

EASTON, Md. (AP)—An old painting dropped off at a rural Maryland Goodwill store turned out to be a work by a French Impressionist. And now, thanks to the sharp eye of a store employee, the charitable organization is $40,000 richer.

The Parisian street scene, left at the store in March along with daily donations of pots, pans, old clock radios and other items, turned out to be a work by Edouard-Leon Cortes, probably from the early 20th century.

The painting—called "Marche aux fleurs" or "Flower Market"—was sold for $40,600 at a Sotheby's auction a few weeks ago.

"It could have very easily ended up put in a pile, marked for $20," says Ursula Villar, marketing and development director for Goodwill Industries of the Chesapeake Inc.

Store manager Terri Tonelli said employees asked her to look at the donated painting because they suspected it was valuable. She found the artist's name on Google and discovered that Cortes was a notable French Impressionist whose work had sold at auction for prices near $60,000.

If the owner of the painting wants the money, he or she may be out of luck. Goodwill says it doesn't keep track of donors. Donations, meanwhile, are gifts that are considered legal and final transactions.

Montana school searches for missing bison

ASHLAND, Mont. (AP)—Talk about fast food: One school is searching for more than 130 bison that wandered away from its lunch program.

Curtis Yarlott, executive director of the St. Labre Indian School, said the animals were probably spooked by a thunderstorm over Memorial Day weekend and ran through a fence.

The bison, which provide meat for the school, were last seen on a neighboring property June 3, but constant rain made it difficult to round them up.

"We don't know where they're at and what they're up to," he said. "Probably no good."

Only 13 bison from the herd have wandered back to the ranch. Yarlott, who hired a plane to search for the missing beasts, said the animals could have been rounded up and taken to market.

Ranch manager Ray Orthman agreed. "I think somebody took them," he said. "They were tame. They'd follow you like dogs."

The St. Labre Indian School was established in 1884 to educate and help the Northern Cheyenne. The ranch was donated to St. Labre almost nine years ago, and the buffalo were donated soon after.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Man leaves Ga. jail naked, gets arrested again

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP)—Sometimes, it's better to look like a jailbird than sport a birthday suit. Police say Bill Merit, 49, left the Chatham County jail and began walking by the side of the road, naked. Witnesses called police, who arrested him and jailed him again on a charge of public indecency.

A police report says Merit told an officer that he didn't take the clothes jailers gave him because he thought they were stolen. The report says the man "appeared rational, except for being naked."

Jail records show Merit had been booked two days earlier on charges of criminal trespass and disorderly conduct. Chatham County Sheriff Lt. Thomas Tillman said Wednesday Merit remains in jail awaiting arraignment. He says he does not know if Merit has a lawyer.

Woman jumps out of moving car on Fla. Interstate

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP)—It's not uncommon for someone to make a dramatic exit in the middle of an argument, but the gesture should probably be avoided while traveling on the Interstate.

Marquita Cherrell Armstrong was a passenger in a car driven by Jeffery Dawayne Watson Tuesday when the two got into an argument on I-10 near Tallahassee.

State troopers said Armstrong told Watson that she wanted to get out, but Watson refused to pull over in a construction zone. That's when Armstrong opened the car door and jumped out.

Armstrong was taken to the hospital with serious injuries.

School locked down after 'ninja' sighted in woods

BARNEGAT, N.J. (AP)—It's the case of the nonexistent ninja. Public schools in Barnegat were locked down briefly after someone reported seeing a ninja running through the woods behind an elementary school.

Turns out the ninja was actually a camp counselor dressed in black karate garb and carrying a plastic sword.

Police tell the Asbury Park Press the man was late to a costume-themed day at a nearby middle school.

The lockdown began shortly after 9 a.m. Wednesday and lasted until 9:30.

Driver arrested after speeding 22 times in 45 days

PHOENIX (AP)—A Nevada woman has been arrested after photo enforcement cameras on a Phoenix freeway captured her behind the wheel of a car speeding 22 times in a 45-day span, authorities said.

The woman, 24, was arrested by Arizona Department of Public Safety officers on suspicion of criminal speeding, reckless driving and endangerment.

During a 45-day period starting in May, DPS officials said the woman was captured by photo enforcement cameras on Loop 101 in Scottsdale 22 times, with her top speed at 92 mph.

The woman was living in Arizona temporarily when officers arrested her at her parent's north Scottsdale home last Friday, officials said.

Computer error prices gas at $1.40 at Ohio station

CINCINNATI (AP)—A computer error caused a Cincinnati area service station to sell gas for $1.40 instead of $4.10, leading to a major traffic jam. Vehicles clogged the area around a Marathon station in suburban Sycamore Township while the bargain was available for roughly three hours on Tuesday, until Hamilton County sheriff's deputies persuaded the station to shut down.

Boy tackled by mayor gets restraining order

GREELEY, Colo. (AP)—The mayor of this northern Colorado city has a temporary restraining order against him after he was accused of throwing a 15-year-old boy to the ground when the teen refused to stop riding a motorbike.

Mayor Ed Clark, who must stay at least 100 yards away from the boy, told the Greeley Tribune he stopped the boy for his own safety and did not hurt him. He said he will fight the restraining order during a July 7 hearing.

The boy's father, Tim Stitt, plans to ask the judge to make the restraining order permanent.

Stitt said Clark forced the boy to the ground on Monday and then held him there until police arrived. Police ticketed the boy for driving without a license.

The father said Clark should be charged with assault. Greeley police spokeswoman Joe Tymkowych said Wednesday an investigation was ongoing.

Stitt said his son and Clark have been at odds for weeks after his son had a dispute with the mayor's wife. Stitt said Clark confronted his son at a basketball court and told him "bad things are going to happen" if he didn't stop showing disrespect to his wife.

Clark is a former police officer who works as a security director at a charter school and recently took a part-time job as an investigator with the Weld County district attorney's office. He did not immediately return a message left by The Associated Press Wednesday.

Kid golfers, strippers share golf course

BROOMFIELD, Colo. (AP)—A close encounter between flirtatious strippers and children playing in a golf tournament was the result of "mistiming," golf course officials said Tuesday as they apologized to parents.

The scantily clad women spilled out of a limousine as the youngsters were finishing their game as part of the Gold Crown Junior Golf Association tournament Monday. Tournament officials said they were not warned the strippers would be arriving before the end of the game for children, who ranged in age from 7 to 12.

The women were part of Shotgun Willie's Charity Golf Tournament to benefit breast cancer. The strippers were to serve as caddies to patron's of the strip club. A club manager said there were 144 golfers and 70 caddies.

A woman told KUSA-TV the event drew curious questions from her children, who asked her why the men joining the strippers had water guns and why the women wore only their underwear. KUSA said the woman declined to be identified.

Eagle Trace Golf Course manager Evelyn Koch says the women were forbidden from going topless and that they were just flirting with the men.

"I cannot tell you the girls didn't flash out there but it wasn't a free-for-all," Koch said. She said the Shotgun Willie's crowd and the young golfers had to share the same clubhouse while the children had lunch because their tournament started later than expected.

Still, she said the Broomfield golf course was sorry children were present when the strippers arrived.

Golf course instructor Dustin Moser said some of the strippers "got a little out of control" but that it happened after the children had left.

Science & Technology

Big impact likely caused two-faced Mars

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Why is Mars two-faced? Scientists say fresh evidence supports the theory that a monster impact punched the red planet, leaving behind perhaps the largest gash on any heavenly body in the solar system.

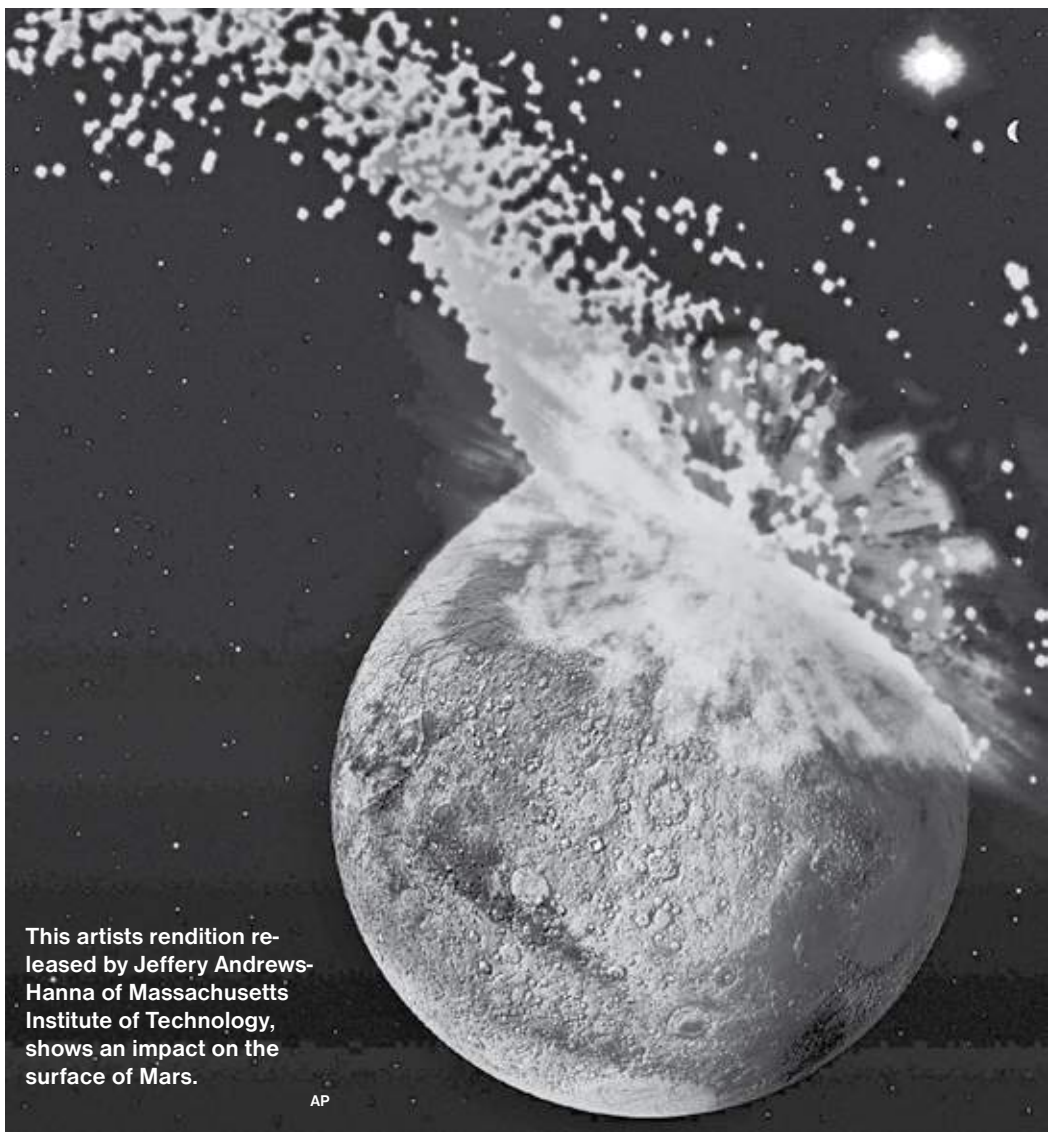
Today, the Martian surface has a split personality. The southern hemisphere of Mars is pockmarked and filled with ancient rugged highlands. By contrast, the northern hemisphere is smoother and covered by low-lying plains.

Three papers in Thursday's journal Nature provide the most convincing evidence yet that an outside force was responsible.

According to the researchers, an asteroid or comet whacked a young Mars some 4 billion years ago, blasting away much of its northern crust and creating a giant hole over 40 percent of the surface.

New calculations reveal the crater known as the Borealis basin measures 5,300 miles across and 6,600 miles long—the size of Asia, Europe and Australia combined. It's believed to be four times bigger than the current titleholder, the South Pole-Aitken basin on Earth's moon.

Astronomers have long puzzled over Mars' landscape ever since images beamed back in the 1970s showed different-looking halves. An orbiting spacecraft later observed the northern lowlands were on average 2 miles lower than the southern highlands and had a thinner crust.



This artists rendition released by Jeffery Andrews-Hanna of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, shows an impact on the surface of Mars.

AP

Scientists who had no role in the studies said the latest research strengthens the case for a colossal Martian impact, but it does not rule out the other theory that hot rock from inside the planet could have welled up and formed the different crusts.

"The betting odds have gone up a lot in favor of the impact model," said Walter Kiefer, a staff scientist at the Lunar and Planetary Institute in Houston.

The idea of an ancient impact was first advanced by Steve Squyres of Cornell University and Don Wilhelms of the U.S. Geological Survey in the 1980s. Squyres, currently the lead scientist for the twin Mars rovers, had always hoped other scientists would "pick that ball up and run with it."

"It wasn't a totally nutty idea that there could have been an impact," Squyres said.

But finding evidence of one proved difficult because part of the basin rim is now covered by a bulging volcanic range.

For one study, a team of scientists from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory recreated what the Martian surface would have looked like before the volcanoes formed using gravity and surface measurements from spacecraft. They determined the impact basin is oval-shaped, similar to what would be expected if a space object had hit at an angle.

"The shape is really one of the key pieces of evidence that it was probably formed in a giant impact," said MIT postdoctoral researcher Jeffrey Andrews-Hanna, whose original "gut feeling" favored the other theory.

A separate group led by the California Institute of Technology developed 3-D simulations to determine the "sweet spot" of conditions that would form the basin.

According to their calculations, a 1,000-mile-wide object traveling at more than 13,000 miles per hour—or 24 times faster than a jetliner—would hit Mars at an angle between 30 and 60 degrees. The collision would be equal to an explosion of 75 trillion to 150 trillion megatons of TNT.

Fossil of most primitive 4-legged creature found

WASHINGTON (AP)—Scientists unearthed a skull of the most primitive four-legged creature in Earth's history, which should help them better understand the evolution of fish to advanced animals that walk on land.

The 365 million-year-old fossil skull, shoulders and part of the pelvis of the water-dweller, Ventastega curonica, were found in Latvia, researchers report in a study published in Thursday's issue of the journal Nature. Even though Ventastega is likely an evolutionary dead-end, the finding sheds new details on the evolutionary transition from fish to tetrapods. Tetrapods are animals with four limbs and include such descendants as amphibians, birds and mammals.

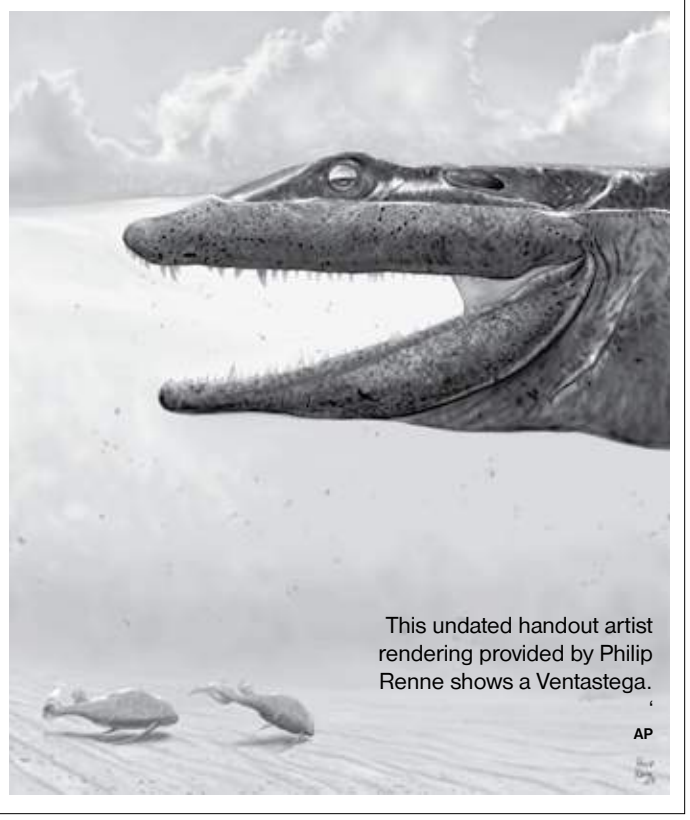
While an earlier discovery found a slightly older animal that was more fish than tetrapod, Ventastega is more tetrapod than fish. The fierce-looking creature probably swam through shallow brackish waters, measured about three or four feet long and ate other fish. It likely had stubby limbs with an unknown number of digits, scientists said.

"If you saw it from a distance, it would look like a small alligator, but if you look closer you would find a fin in the back," said lead author Per Ahlberg, a professor of evolutionary biology at Uppsala University in Sweden. "I imagine this is an animal that could haul itself over sand banks without any difficulty. Maybe it's poking around in semi-tidal creeks picking up fish that got stranded."

This all happened more than 100 million years before the first dinosaurs roamed Earth.

Scientists don't think four-legged creatures are directly evolved from Ventastega. It's more likely that in the family tree of tetrapods, Ventastega is an offshoot branch that eventually died off, not leading to the animals we now know, Ahlberg said.

"At the time there were a lot of creatures around of varying degrees of advancement," Ahlberg said. They all seem to have similar characteristics, so Ventastega's find is helpful for evolutionary biologists.



This undated handout artist rendering provided by Philip Renne shows a Ventastega.

AP

Researchers: Red players beat blue in online game

NEW YORK (AP)—It's better to be on the red team than on the blue team in an online multiplayer shooting game, according to researchers.

The scientists studied the outcomes of 1,347 matchups between elite teams playing "Unreal Tournament 2004," a so-called first-person shooter game. The main activity in the game is running around and shooting at the avatars of the opposing team.

As is the case with most team-based online shooting games, players of Unreal Tournament can choose to be on either the red team or the blue team, and their avatars wear those colors. But that choice is not as neutral as it seems: 55 percent of the time, the red team won, according to the study published this week in the journal Cyberpsychology & Behavior.

Neuroscientist Mihai Moldovan of the University of Copenhagen in Denmark said the reason was most likely that the color red may act as a psychological distractor for men, possibly because men flush and turn red when they're angry.

"While this is really an interesting analysis, the notion of red team versus blue team has been ingrained in the Unreal Tournament series for years. We don't anticipate any immediate changes to team colors," said Mark Rein, vice president of Epic Games, the Cary, N.C.-based developer of the series.

Another study found in 2005 that wearing red is an advantage in real-life sports. British scientists found that athletes wearing red in one-on-one events like wrestling at the 2004 Olympics were more likely to win.

The game results for the Unreal Tournament study were culled from public servers used by players around the world. Moldovan worked with researchers at the Carol Davila University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Bucharest, Romania, on the study.

Internet domain name for China surpasses ".net"

NEW YORK (AP)—Registrations for Internet addresses ending in China's ".cn" have surpassed those for the global ".net," showing the continued rapid rise in Internet use in the communist nation.

A study by VeriSign Inc., which runs the ".net" databases and other core directories for helping computers find Web sites and route e-mail, found that ".cn" overtook ".net" sometime in the first quarter of 2008.

VeriSign did not provide registration breakdowns but said ".cn" registrations grew 23 percent from the previous quarter and were triple those in the same period in 2007.

The organization that runs Germany's ".de" domain pegged ".cn" registrations at 11.8 million and ".net" at 11.6 million as of May.

The findings come as China reported that the number of Internet users there has soared to 221 million, by some measures tying the U.S. online population as largest in the world.

There's no threat of ".cn" overtaking ".com" any time soon, however. The ".com" suffix, which VeriSign also runs, is the overwhelming leader, with 76.5 million registrations worldwide, while ".de" is second with 12.1 million, according to the German group.

Both ".com" and ".net" are global domain names, available to individuals, groups and companies worldwide on a first-come, first-served basis. They are typically used by U.S. entities, however. Elsewhere, country-specific addresses such as ".de" and ".cn" are typically preferred.

Many country-specific domains have in recent years relaxed registration rules and are now available around the world and function like ".com" and ".net."

VeriSign's study found growth in other country names as well, including Poland's ".pl," Spain's ".es," Russia's ".ru" and France's ".fr."

Laptop likely to be best bet

By MIKE HIMOWITZ
(C) 2008, THE BALTIMORE SUN

If there's a recent grad in your house, or you're one of the many buyers who think they can get a better deal at midyear than during the holidays, chances are good that you're looking for a computer. And your chances of finding a good one for a reasonable price are good indeed. In fact, you'd have to work pretty hard to find a bad one.

For that we can thank Moore's Law—which should more accurately be called Moore's Bubble. Gordon Moore, the co-founder of Intel, predicted decades ago that the number of transistors that engineers could cram onto a wafer of silicon would double every 18 months for the foreseeable future.

It's a bit like the housing bubble. Only instead of creating uncontrolled inflation in the market, followed by the inevitable bust, Moore's Bubble has created a market for ever more powerful computers at lower prices, not to mention a generation of cheap, pocket-sized gadgets. Most computer scientists say the bubble will continue to grow for some years to come—by which time, an even more astonishing technology bubble will replace it.

That being enough theory for this otherwise practical column, let's talk about the best computer choice for your student—or for you.

Thanks to Mr. Moore, that computer is likely to be a laptop machine today, rather than a desktop. And if you don't like an idea of a laptop because the screen and keyboard are too small, here's my advice—buy a laptop, hook up a keyboard, monitor and mouse, and use it as a desktop machine.

If you're a student, the advantages of a laptop are obvious. Being relatively young and strong, you probably don't think twice about toting one around campus to take notes in class or study in the library. And it can easily travel home with you on vacation.

If you're an adult, a laptop provides almost as much processing bang for the buck as a desktop machine, and the flexibility of using it anywhere in your home, or taking it on vacation, is worth the extra cost.

There are two exceptions to this rule. If you or your student is a serious game player—I'm talking about high-end action titles—you'll pay considerably more for the cutting-edge processing power you'll need in a laptop computer than in a desktop. That laptop will also run hot enough to burn a hole in your lap.

To a lesser extent, serious, high-definition video editing needs a lot of horsepower and hard drive storage—you can do it on a laptop if you're willing to pay for the privilege.

But on the whole, when the average price of a computer is now in the $600 to $700 range, a 20 to 30 percent premium for portability doesn't mean as much as it did when PCs were selling for $1,500 to $2,000.

That said, there are four general classes of laptops on the market today—and picking the one that's right for you is more important than a particular brand or specifications.

AP

A model pours water over Panasonic's new ultra mobile PC, Toughbook CF-U1, as it is unveiled in Tokyo Wednesday, June 25, 2008. The 184x151x57mm compact PC is shown to be water-proof and durable for a fall from some 1.2 meter high position. Loaded with Intel Atom processor, the battery lasts about 10 hours.

At the highest, and least portable end, are desktop replacement machines—they can do everything a desktop computer can do. And at 8 to 10 pounds, they weigh almost as much, or so it seems whenever I lug one through an airport. They start at less than $1,000, although you can easily spend two to three times that much.

Most of these computers have 17-inch, widescreen liquid crystal displays, which makes them a good bet for students who have limited space and want an entertainment center that will play DVDs or even bring in TV broadcasts with an optional tuner.

At the low end, these machines may have older versions of Intel or AMD processors that use a lot more power than newer machines. So their battery life is likely to be a few hours at best. Think of these giants as desktop computers that are relatively easy to move, instead of as computing-to-go.

The sweet spot for most laptop customers is still the all purpose machine. Most weigh 5 to 7 pounds and have brilliant 15.4-inch displays. So pervasive has the playing of DVDs become that it's getting harder to find one with a screen in the classic 4-to-3 aspect ratio—the market has gone widescreen even at this size.

An all purpose laptop is big enough for relatively comfortable computing—the screen is readable and the keyboard will be close to full size. For a student (or adult) who wants entertainment as well as utility, look for a model that has headphone and microphone jacks on the front, along with physical buttons, slides or wheels for controlling music and DVD playback when the machine is closed up.

Likewise, this year's option-turned-must-have-accessory is a built-in Webcam. Students love these for posting videos on YouTube, MySpace and Facebook, as well as for making videophone calls or chatting with their friends. If you buy one for your kid and want to see his or her gorgeous face now and then, you'll need a Webcam, too. These are relatively inexpensive gadgets (less than $100) and well worth the time it takes to set up if your children or grandchildren are Webcam-equipped, too.

For real travelers (or laptop-toting students) who value portability and battery life over everything else, consider the road warrior. These are machines that weigh as little as three pounds and have screens in the 12-to-14-inch range. Their keyboards may be slightly less than full-sized, which can be a real pain if you or your student does a lot of writing. So try one this size before you buy.

This category is where less really begins to cost more. Equipped for college use, these laptops start at $1,300 or so—but they're beautiful little machines. I like them a lot more than I used to—and your student will love one, too.

HELP FILE

By ROB PEGORARO
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Q: Is there any escape from all the useless prompts (send a numeric page, leave a callback number, blah blah blah) I have to sit through before leaving a voice-mail message on somebody's cellphone?

A: The total time wasted by these instructions, which play after a person's recorded greeting, could add up to millions of hours a year. But to what end? Has anybody ever done anything after hearing the leave-me-a-message greeting but, you know, leave a message? Are the conspiracy theorists correct to think that these options exist only to run up people's airtime?

Representatives for AT&T Wireless, Sprint Nextel and Verizon Wireless all said that enough customers use and appreciate the other options to justify their existence, but they did not provide usage statistics to document that contention. (T-Mobile did not answer these questions.)

The publicists did, however, describe how to skip both a voice-mail greeting and the prompts after it by pressing the right key on your phone. If you're calling a AT&T subscriber, pressing "0" will usually let you start recording your message right away; with a Sprint customer, press "1"; for a Verizon user, use the asterisk key; and when phoning a T-Mobile subscriber, hit the number key.

Because each of these companies somehow managed to pick a different shortcut key, you can do callers a favor by reminding them of the right button to press in your greeting.

Sprint users can also change their voice-mail settings to inflict one fewer prompt on callers. Call your voice mail from your phone, press 3 to enter the "personal options" menu, press 1 to change your settings, then press 6 to deactivate the "leave a callback number" prompt. Your friends will thank you.

Military funds development of brainwave binoculars

By ALEX DOMINGUEZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

LINTHICUM, Md. (AP)—Military binoculars may soon get information directly from the brains of the soldiers using them.

With the idea that that the brain absorbs and assesses more visual information than it lets on - and that it could make more sense out of what's visible through high-power binoculars if it stopped filtering that information - the Pentagon has awarded contracts to two defense firms to develop brainwave-aided binoculars.

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, better known as DARPA, is betting that intelligent binoculars can tap into the brain's ability to spot patterns and movement and help soldiers detect threats from miles farther away than they can with traditional binoculars.

Electrodes on the scalp inside a helmet will record the user's brain activity as it processes information about high-resolution images produced by wide-angle military binoculars. Those responses will train the binoculars over time to recognize threats.

"You need to present the soldier with many images and then use the person's brain to figure out what is of interest," said Yuval Boger, CEO of Sensics, Inc., a Baltimore-based maker of panoramic head-mounted displays.

Sensics belongs to a team led by Northrop Grumman that won $6.7 million for its research. Other members include Northrop's Linthicum-based Electronic Systems division; SAIC of San Diego, Calif.; Theia Technologies LLC, of Wilsonville, Ore.; and Dallas-based L-3 Communications Infrared Products. Researchers from the Georgia Institute of Technology, Georgetown University, Portland State University and the University of Colorado, Boulder, Colo. are also participating.

Paul Hasler, an associate professor of engineering at Georgia Tech, described the technology as an example of "neuromorphic" engineering that uses hardware and software to emulate human intelligence.

"You would see a certain picture in your field of view, but the device would actually be looking over a much wider space - and if it found something interesting it would present you with that picture as well," Hasler said.

The other contractor to win a contract is HRL Laboratories, which received $4.3 million, said DARPA spokeswoman Jan Walker.

Dr. Robert Shin, assistant professor of neurology and ophthalmology at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, said the brain is constantly processing images but most get filtered out.

"There is a level where the brain can identify things before it ever makes it to the conscious level," Shin said. "Your brain says, 'It may be something.' But it might not realize that it is something that should rise to the conscious level."

Life & Style

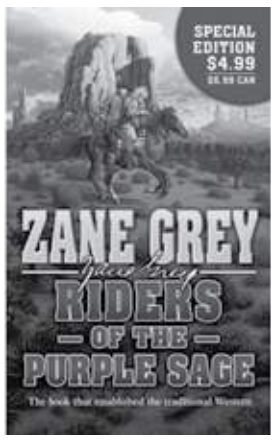
Fiction to flip-flop through at the beach

By DAN ZAK
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

To herald the start of beach-read season, we've come up with our own list of eight reads from the past 100 years that still possess enough snap and crackle to complement any day in the sun.

"Riders of the Purple Sage"
By Zane Grey (1912)

It's probably the greatest western ever written. At least, so says Joe Wheeler, co-founder and executive director of the Zane Grey's West Society, which is dedicated to the man who nurtured the myth of the West through his clean, rich prose.



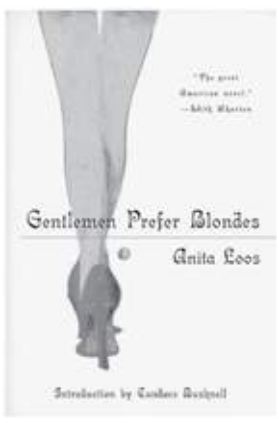
"I did a lot of corresponding with people who were more current western writers, like Louis L'Amour," says Wheeler, on the phone from Montana's Glacier National Park, site of the society's annual convention. "They all agreed that one of the things that makes Grey totally unique was that he was the last western writer to write when the West still existed."

"Riders of the Purple Sage" is set in southern Utah in 1871. Its heroine, Jane Withersteen, realizes she must break with her oppressive church with the help (and love) of the gentle, roguish Lassiter, the prototype for all literary gunmen who followed. Setting in Grey's novels was as important as characters, so can you read "Riders of the Purple Sage" on the beaches of the East Coast, miles away from the canyons and deserts of the Old West?

"Oh, sure," Wheeler says. "It's a great escape book. Once you get into that book, Grey has the ability to essentially take you outside of time as you knew it, and you are just carried away into a world you won't escape until you finish it."

"Gentlemen Prefer Blondes"
By Anita Loos (1925)

While riding a train from New York to Los Angeles, Loos sketched some thoughts on a yellow legal pad as she watched a horde of men fuss over another woman, who was equal to Loos in youth and beauty, inferior in intellect but naturally blond and, therefore, more attractive. It was an "important scientific fact which had never before been pinpointed," Loos wryly wrote in her introduction to "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes," a comic novel composed of the ditzy diary entries of Lorelei Lee, an American flapper who slingshots herself into the ritzy social orbits of Europe.



"The great American novel," Edith Wharton and Merle Miller proclaimed.

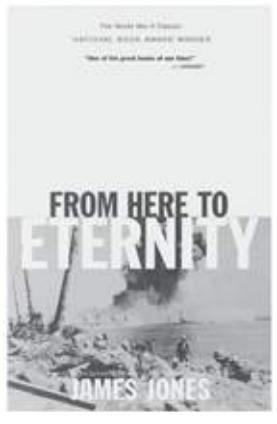
The best book of philosophy ever written by an American, George Santayana said.

Other fans included William Faulkner and Benito Mussolini. Talk about wide appeal.

Loos, who made a name for herself writing screenplays for Hollywood, parlayed the novel into a 1949 Broadway show starring Carol Channing and the beloved 1953 movie with Marilyn Monroe as Lorelei.

Loos' original diary entries sing and flow with zippy wit. ("Paris is devine," Lorelei writes, stumbling typographically, "because the French are devine.") It's a fizzy aperitif for those breaks between beach volleyball and a welcome tonic for those whose social fantasies have been heretofore narrated by Carrie Bradshaw.

"From Here to Eternity"
By James Jones (1951)



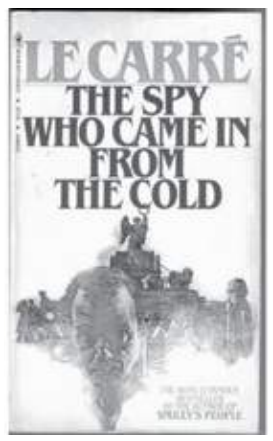
It's easy to pick off several short books during a week-long vacation. Perhaps a more deeply rewarding task would be to tackle an epic, to start at Page 1 and end at Page 864, with waves of drama and emotion rushing over and around you. Sort of like they did to Burt Lancaster and Deborah Kerr in that famous scene from the 1953 film adaptation of "From Here to Eternity."

Set in Hawaii's Schofield Barracks during the months before the attack on Pearl Harbor, the dialogue-heavy novel follows two soldiers (one who refuses to join his company's boxing team, one who's having an affair with a superior's wife) as they contend with the brutality of peacetime Army life in a beautiful oceanside setting.

Joan Didion wrote lovingly about the novel in a 1977 essay she penned during a stay in Hawaii: "A place belongs forever to whoever claims it hardest, remembers it most obsessively, wrenches it from itself, shapes it, renders it, loves it so radically that he remakes it in his image, and not only Schofield Barracks but a great deal of Honolulu itself has always belonged for me to James Jones."

"The Spy Who Came in From the Cold"
By John le Carre (1963)

After romances, spy thrillers might be considered the most appropriate kind of beach read. Intrigue, danger, escapism, exotic locales, muscular plots reliant on double crosses and brushes with death are all ingredients in an addictive page turner. Strange, then, that le Carre takes a subtler approach, one more identifiable with the '60s Cold War reality, in "The Spy Who Came in From the Cold," which was on the bestseller list for more than a year after it debuted in the United States.

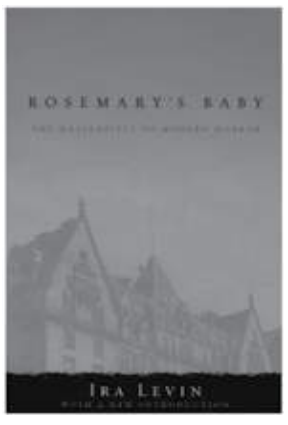


Graham Greene wrote that it was the best spy story he ever read. Perhaps this is because le Carre (who once worked in British intelligence) goes for truth of character over mechanics of plot, and quality of writing over hard-boiled linguistics, seeking to define a political era instead of merely offering an absorbing yarn. In the book, a British agent is assigned one last mission: to take on the guise of a disgraced agent, get back behind the Iron Curtain and position himself as bait to bring down the head of East German intelligence.

"It's a terrific story, so absolutely it's a terrific beach read," says fellow spy-thriller scribe Joseph Kanon. "Ironically enough, one of the great appeals of the book when it first came out was that it was 'realistic' as opposed to fantasy, but now, 45 years later, it's not the world as we see it. It is a lost world, a vanished world."

"Rosemary's Baby"
By Ira Levin (1967)

It starts with the banal. A young couple sign a lease on Apartment 7E in New York's fancy Bramford Building. They celebrate by lunching on chicken salad sandwiches at the Russian Tea Room. Only at the end of the first chapter, when a character marvels at the gargoyles crawling between the windows of the building, does writer Ira Levin hint at the sinisterness to come. The beach seems the perfect place to read this novel, if only because pleasant weather might provide a little relief from its scares.



Levin's delicate writing style propels his horror story of a woman who is, as luck would have it, impregnated by the devil soon after moving into the Bramford. Before Rosemary realizes her neighbors are witches, the book hisses with insinuation; after, it pulses with paranoia. But there is a resonant social message underneath the fright, according to author Chuck Palahniuk.

"In big, funny, scary ways, you acknowledge our faults," he wrote in a letter to Levin, part of a collection of essays titled "Stranger Than Fiction." "The problems we're too afraid to recognize. And by writing, you give us less to fear about living. That's very, VERY creepy, Mr. Levin. But not creepy-bad. It's creepy-(ital) nice. (end ital) Creepy-(ital) great."(end ital)

"The Thorn Birds"
By Colleen McCullough (1977)

If it's a family saga you want, there's "The Sound and the Fury." But

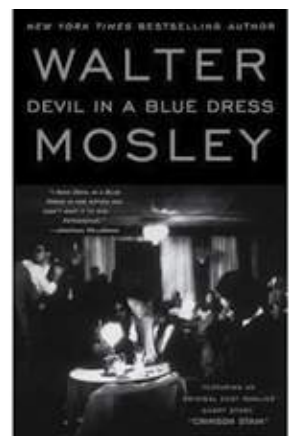
despite its craftsmanship, Faulkner's classic is unlikely to hold your attention when there are racks of ribs and jugs of pinot grigio to be had on the back deck. For an accessible, operatic family saga, journey down under to the Australian Outback, where the Cleary clan contends with forbidden passion, hollow marriages and a whole boatload of other feelings. People die in each other's arms, and mysterious kinships are revealed. In other words, it's the perfect scandal-as-drama treat.

Hailed as the new "Gone With the Wind" when it was published, "The Thorn Birds" debuted to ravenous word-of-mouth enthusiasm, sold 7 million paperback copies and spawned one of the most-watched miniseries in television history. It's "the most commercial, most obsessively readable, most satisfying novel it's ever been my good fortune to be involved with," one of its publishing directors said before its release.

Not convinced of the novel's gigantic splendor? The title comes from a mythical bird that sings its sweetest song when it impales itself on a thorn. "One superlative song, existence the price," goes the legend. Sigh!

"Devil in A Blue Dress"
By Walter Mosley (1990)

Named one of the 100 favorite mysteries of the 20th century by the Independent Mystery Booksellers Association, "Devil in a Blue Dress" marks the introduction of recurring character Ezekiel "Easy" Rawlins, an L.A.-based war veteran who unwittingly becomes a private detective. Mosley, one of Bill Clinton's favorite authors, stretched Rawlins' story over 11 books, which take place from the late '40s to the '60s. The final installment of the series, "Blonde Faith," came out last year.

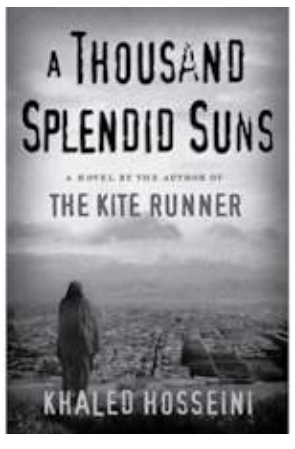


"Devil in a Blue Dress," though, is the place to start. Rawlins, having just lost his job and facing a looming mortgage, finds himself accepting a task from a mystery man in a white linen suit. The job: Find a woman named Daphne Money. The yarn unspools from there.

The Thrilling Detective Web site praises Mosley for offering an alternative social history of Los Angeles life through the Rawlins series, and New York magazine called the first installment "a black 'Chinatown,' a cross between Richard Wright and Raymond Chandler." And there's no better place to read a hard-boiled, sun-soaked mystery than on the shore.

"A Thousand Splendid Suns"
By Khaled Hosseini (2007)

The follow-up novel to Hosseini's "The Kite Runner," which remained atop bestseller lists for two years, "A Thousand Splendid Suns" tells the story of two generations of characters swept up in the earthshaking events of Afghanistan's past three decades, from Soviet occupation to life after the Taliban. Whereas Hosseini's previous book focused on Afghan men, this one tells the story of two girls who live near each other and eventually are brought together by marriage to the same man. The subject matter is heavy, but the compelling, emotional way it is delivered makes it suitable for digesting in a tranquil poolside setting.



"The book is powerfully moving, as was 'The Kite Runner,' but Hosseini is not above melodrama and heartstring-tugging," Jonathan Yardley wrote in The Washington Post last year. " 'A Thousand Splendid Suns' is popular fiction of the first rank, which is plenty good enough, but it is not literature and should not be mistaken for such." Literature (with a capital "L") isn't what most beachgoers are looking for anyway, especially if the alternative is, as Yardley said, "brave," "honorable" and "big-hearted."

Coldplay finds time to seize the moment

By GEOFF BOUCHER
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES TIMES

The band Coldplay is photographed in an alleyway outside the "Jimmy Kimmel Live" studio in Hollywood this month. From left, bassist Guy Berryman, drummer Will Champion, singer-keyboardist Chris Martin and guitarist Jonny Buckland.

LOS ANGELES–Chris Martin was on the floor working out the knots. As his handlers hovered, the usually affable Coldplay singer stretched out on the carpet in a dim and airless room backstage at the Jimmy Kimmel show. It was hours before show time and the singer's muscles were tight and his expression sour. Finally, he looked up with pleading eyes. "Can we escape? Let's go somewhere else. Maybe some place with trees? I have a car and a driver..."

A few minutes later, the lanky Brit ducked through an alleyway behind the talk show's Hollywood Boulevard studios and climbed into an ebony SUV that whisked him and his visitor up the hill to Griffith Park. "This looks good," he said, tapping the window. "Yes, let's stop here." As soon as his sneakers hit the grass, the black-clad Martin was as perky as the Labrador that trotted past him on a path. Hummingbirds and butterflies were in the air and Martin was at ease, enough so that he started making confessions and jokes which, for him, are hard to separate.

"Like millions of people in the world, I can't listen to Coldplay," Martin said with a daft wink. "But my reason is professional. You see, I'm always thinking about the next thing. I'm also always looking for something that will inspire the next thing. Look, we're the one band we can't plagiarize. So really there's no point in me listening to it. If I think, 'Well, that's good,' then I'll want to use it, which won't work. And if I think, 'Hey that's terrible,' then I'll be depressed over breakfast. It's a classic lose-lose situation."

If you listen to Coldplay—and many people do, considering the 11.2 million albums they've sold in the U.S. alone—then you know that Martin is an earnest voice in an ironic age. That has opened the band up to savage insults (Noel Gallagher once sneered that they were "four Didos with willies") but instead of retreating, Martin decided to join in the sport. No one gives Chris Martin more grief these days than Martin himself. He makes fun of his hair, clothes, diet and famous falsetto. He even mocks himself for thinking, deep-down, that he's cool for not being cool: "We've never been about being cool and we never will be. And I think in a way that's quite cool. But I can't think about it too much—because if you think about it then you automatically aren't cool. Wait, I've gone too far. I'm not cool. Again."

Coldplay has a new album, "Viva la Vida or Death and All His Friends," which hit stores last week and arrived with considerable heat. The lead single, "Viva la Vida," hit No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 a few days ago and, at iTunes, the pre-orders for the album were the largest in the history of the digital merchant. The band became famous for polished, piano-based songs of soaring pop exultation and rainy-day reflection, but with this new studio album, their fourth, they have made a bid at reinvention. The songs are still from the heart but maybe more from the gut.

No matter what, Coldplay won't be able to win over a certain constituency that, frankly, has detested them too much and for too long to start listening now. Jon Pareles of The New York Times once called them the "most insufferable band of the decade," which might say less about the band and more about how fashionable it has become to slag them. Martin said it's because he wears his heart on his sleeve when he sings. "If you allow yourself to be vulnerable in your music, people will feel it a lot more," Martin said. "But a lot more people will also hate it or mock it. It's almost like a deal with the devil, but I'm happy to take that deal. It doesn't feel right to me to sing about stuff I don't believe in."

In a September 1996, a shy man named Jonny Buckland, fresh from a Welsh town called Mold, arrived with his acoustic guitar for his first year at University College London. His plan was to look at the stars (he was studying astronomy) but his life took a different path when, during orientation week, he met Martin, a gangly kid from leafy Devon, who coaxed him into a music partnership.

They would be joined by bassist Guy Berryman, a handsome Scot who came to the university to study engineering. He had heard Martin's amateur attempts at songwriting and, after a few rounds at a pub, lurched across the room and demanded membership in the band. Will Champion, an anthropology student who knew more about tribes than he did drums, was brought in to keep the beat. They called themselves Starfish, but the name didn't stick. They pinched a better one from "Child's Reflections, Cold Play," a 1997 collection by American poet Philip Horky.

Their 2000 debut album, "Parachutes," yielded the yearning, breakthrough hit "Yellow" and the 2002 follow-up, "A Rush of Blood to the Head," came with a flurry of hit singles: "In My Place," "Clocks" and "The Scientist." That's when things got complicated. Relentless tour dates, the tug of their personal lives and the turbulence of success put Coldplay in a shaky place. The members say they felt pressured by their label, EMI/Capitol Records, to create a follow-up with similar scope and sound. The album was delayed and EMI's stock dropped (literally) as a result, turning up the tension. The result was "X&Y," a 2005 album that sold well but, in the band's view, lacked clarity.

> "If you allow yourself to be vulnerable in your music, people will feel it a lot more. But a lot more people will also hate it or mock it. It's almost like a deal with the devil, but I'm happy to take that deal."

To steady themselves, Martin said, Coldplay looked for a place to "make it homemade again." They found it in a blind alley in London.

"We found this little bakery, and we bought it and turned it into a, well, it's like a youth club," Martin said. "Do you read the Harry Potter books? It's a bit like that train stop they use, the platform 9 3/4, which you can't find unless you know where it is. If you drive by quickly, it doesn't look like anything is there. If you go in, it's like a little band heaven. Everything is hand-painted. There was a dartboard, but it's gone now. We banned some of the leisure activities. The last thing you need when you're trying to reinvent yourself is a pool table. Drummers tend to love pool more than they love drumming. It's a bigger stick."

The group also rang up Stella McCartney for some guidance in creating uniforms. Their vision was to create a look for themselves that was a mix of "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" and a rag-tag Salvation Army quintet. A Norwegian tailor made jackets and trousers, which they individualized with ribbons and piping.

"It's a little nerdy, but we turned into seamstresses for a few days," Martin said. "It's a nice feeling to wear clothes you really had a hand in. It's the closest we'll get to Roc-A-Wear I think. It's not an original idea, but it's a good one. The Clash did it and Green Day did it. Adam Ant. Lots of people. It makes you feel more like a performer."

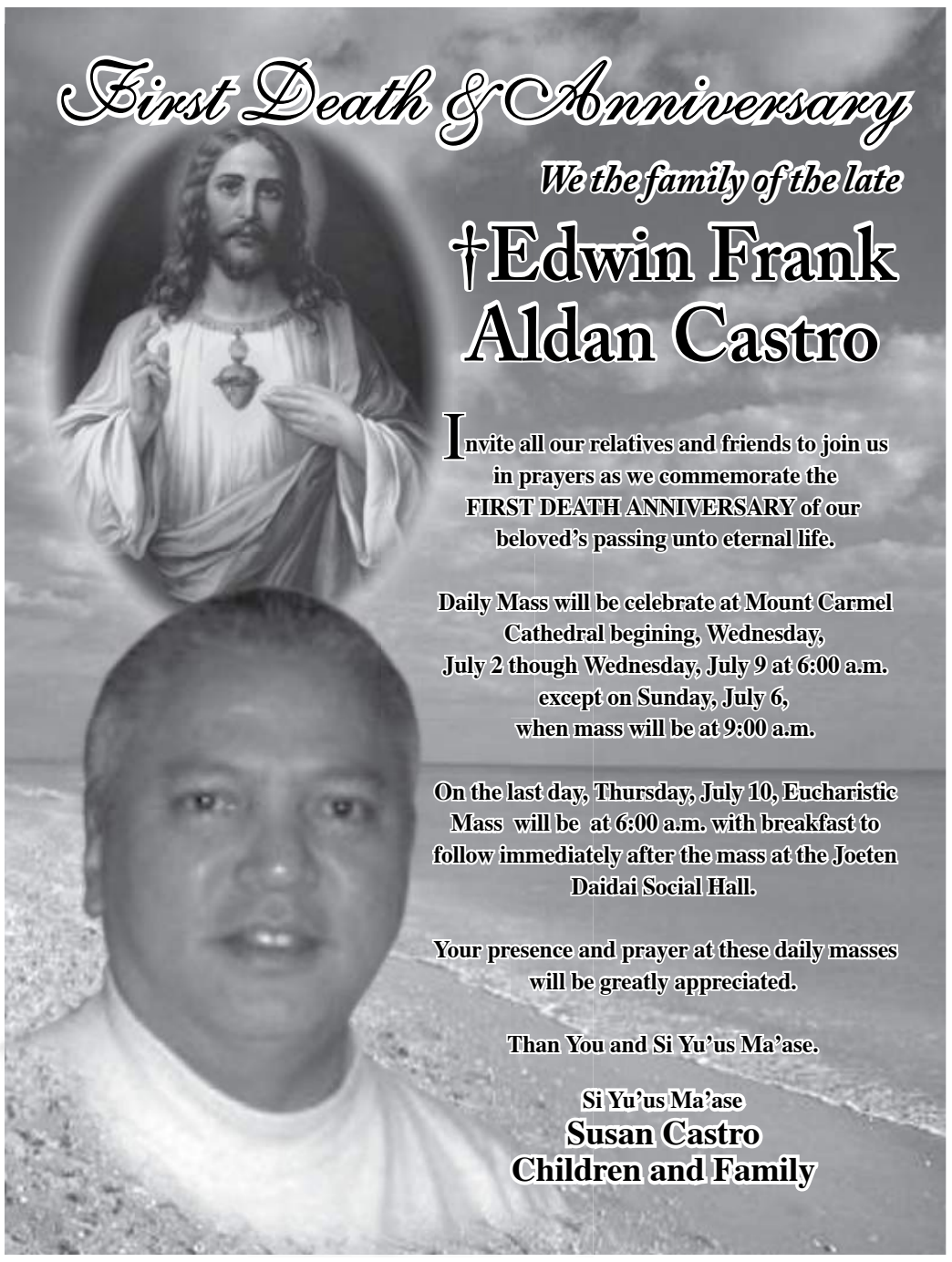
There's also a brother-in-arms message: "I think with each band there comes a point where they have to find a place to be together otherwise they end up living in different countries and just meet on stage. When you get famous, there are two reactions to your other bandmates. You either think 'I could do this without you.' Or you think, 'I really couldn't do this without you.' You're luckier if you are in the second category. We've always been very grateful for each other."

"X&Y" WASN'T really an album, it was a collection of singles. The band now rues that decision, which they made in deference to the age of downloading songs. "Now we believe there are great albums to be made and that they should be made." For "Viva la Vida," the band brought in producer Brian Eno, famed for his work with U2. The result is a wild ride: Interstitial sounds, hidden tracks, a towering church organ here, North African tabla and flamenco hand claps there. "Viva la Vida" has Beatles-esque strings, a U2-style build and a grand old church bell that, if you listen closely, has bird chirps trailing its toll like the tail of a kite. In her review, Los Angeles Times music critic Ann Powers said Eno's presence has Coldplay making their "official leap toward greatness."

Martin said he feels time is moving faster these days. He's the father of two children with his wife, actress Gwyneth Paltrow, which has inspired him to cut away the distractions in his life. The day before the visit to Griffith Park, he and the band were at the MTV Movie Awards to perform "Viva la Vida" live, for the first time anywhere—a precursor to their concerts July 14 and 15 in L.A., which kick off a North American tour. At rehearsals, Martin was grim-faced—everything seemed to be going wrong.

The band, befitting their uniforms, soldiered on through the rehearsals and broadcast, no easy feat considering the blank-faced fans in the venue. The band won them over halfway through the song when an intense cascade of confetti shot up from both sides of the stage. Not just any confetti either—it was butterfly shaped, and appeared to flutter. It was the type of image that inspires a gag reflex in Coldplay detractors, but the band (and audience) loved it.

"Those butterflies are important to us because they make us feel very ... happy," Martin recalled the next day at the park. "At a time when you could be insecure, whenever we fire those butterflies up we just can't help but smile. I love everything about what we do, we're very lucky and fortunate, but I do recoil a bit from the judgments. As long as some people are kind and supportive, that makes it easier. But even then you need your butterflies to remember to just enjoy the moment."


First Death & Anniversary
We the family of the late
†Edwin Frank
Aldan Castro
Invite all our relatives and friends to join us
in prayers as we commemorate the
FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY of our
beloved's passing unto eternal life.
Daily Mass will be celebrate at Mount Carmel
Cathedral begining, Wednesday,
July 2 though Wednesday, July 9 at 6:00 a.m.
except on Sunday, July 6,
when mass will be at 9:00 a.m.
On the last day, Thursday, July 10, Eucharistic
Mass will be at 6:00 a.m. with breakfast to
follow immediately after the mass at the Joeten
Daidai Social Hall.
Your presence and prayer at these daily masses
will be greatly appreciated.
Than You and Si Yu'us Ma'ase.
Si Yu'us Ma'ase
Susan Castro
Children and Family

Queen confers knighthood on author Salman Rushdie

LONDON (AP)—Author Salman Rushdie slipped into Buckingham Palace on Wednesday to receive a knighthood from Queen Elizabeth II that had angered many parts of the Muslim world when the honor was announced last year.

In a break with normal procedure, the palace did not announce ahead of time that Rushdie would be honored Wednesday.

A spokeswoman for the queen, who asked not to be identified because of the monarch's policy, said Rushdie was not listed among those to be honored because he was a late addition to the investiture. She refused to comment on whether his name had been withheld because of security concerns.

Security has been a major concern for Rushdie since 1989, when Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini pronounced a death sentence on the author, accusing him of blasphemy against the Muslim world in his novel "The Satanic Verses." The edict forced Rushdie to live underground with constant protection for many years until it was finally withdrawn in 1998.

AP

British author Salman Rushdie is seen after receiving his Knighthood from Britain's Queen Elizabeth II during an Investiture ceremony at Buckingham Palace, London Wednesday June 25 2008.

Rushdie, dressed in a formal morning suit and obviously pleased with the honor, told reporters after the ceremony that he was not sorry about writing "The Satanic Verses."

"I really have no regrets about any of my work," he said when asked about his most inflammatory novel.

"This is, as I say, an honor not for any specific book but for a very long career in writing, and I'm happy to see that recognized."

Rushdie, 61, published his first novel, "Grimus," in 1975, but it drew little attention and few readers.

Success came with his next book, "Midnight's Children," which won the prestigious Booker Prize in 1981.

"The Satanic Verses," published in 1988, created a firestorm of controversy, first in Britain and then in Iran, where Khomeini, who had recently come to power after the overthrow of the Shah, pronounced his death sentence on the writer.

The Indian-British writer was forced to accept round-the-clock protection from British special agents and to stay completely out of the public eye. He moved many times and constantly changed his routine in an attempt to throw pursuers off the track.

The Iranian government withdrew the death sentence in 1998, and Rushdie has gradually returned to public life. Recently he has divided his time between New York and London.

"It's been a long time. My first novel was published 33 years ago, but I think the thing you hope to do as a writer is leave behind a shelf of interesting books, and it's great just to have that work recognized," Rushdie said outside the palace as he posed for photos with his medal. "At this stage, you know, it's certainly not a day to talk about controversy. It's a day for myself and my family to celebrate this."

Pressed about which of his books was his favorite, Rushdie said he could not pick one over the others.

"It's difficult to choose between your books," he said. "You wouldn't choose between your children would you?"

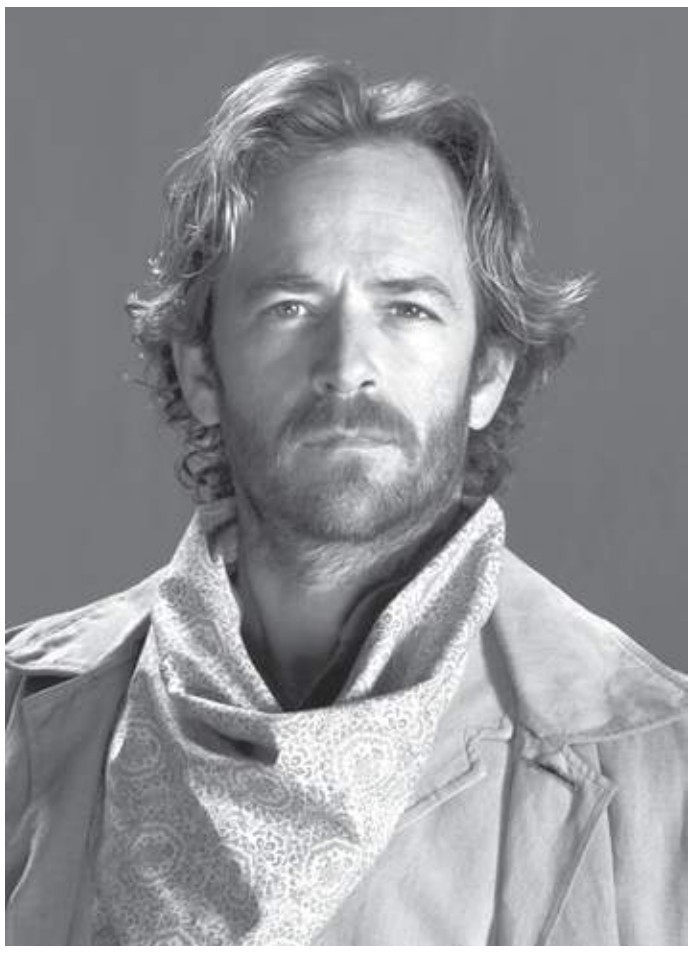
Normally cool and composed, Rushdie said he was nervous before the ceremony and appreciated the help with etiquette and protocol provided by palace staff before the ceremony.

"We all get coached in the green room beforehand, and I was very grateful for the coaching because, even though it's a relatively simple set of procedures, it's really easy under the nervousness of the moment to mess them up and I almost did," Rushdie said.

Veteran actor Sir Ian McKellen, best known for his role as Gandalf in "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy, also was honored by the queen. McKellen, a longtime gay rights activist who was knighted in 1990, was made a Companion of Honor at the investiture for services to drama and equality.

Message of Appreciation
Carmen Dolores Fejeran-Soo
At a time when our hearts are filled with pain and loss, it is through the unconditional love, care, support, and prayers you've shared that has given us strength in each passing day.
We thank our heavenly Father for blessing us 48 beautiful years with my beloved Wife and our Mother. As she moves on to her new life in God's grace, her tender spirit and loving memory forever remains in our hearts.
Our sincere gratitude to our families, relatives and friends for their thoughts, prayers, and generosity. We're forever grateful and embrace you all close to our hearts and prayers.
A Special Thank to Fr. Edwin Macmac OAR and clergy, Fr. Isaac Ayuyu, Fr. Jesse Reyes, Fr. Manuel Corcuera, San Vicente Parish, Cabrera Funeral Service and Kristo Rai Choirs, our Techa Sophie M. Fejeran and Felicita Lisua, CHC Physicians, Nurses and Dialysis staff, Social Worker Eleanor Cabrera, St. Jude Renal Care,Department of Public Safety, Mayor's Office, James and Maryanne Reyes.
Kamsahapnida, Un Dangkulu na Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Oloomway and Thank You.
With loving thoughts and caring hearts,
Cho Dae Soo, Children & Family

CELEBRITY EXTRA



Luke Perry

By CINDY ELAVSKY

(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: I've been reading that many "90210" alumni want to be involved in the CW's "90210." The main question on my mind is, will Luke Perry return to his old ZIP code?—Julia G., Austin, Texas

A: While interviewing Luke—who was promoting his new Hallmark Channel movie, "A Gunfighter's Pledge," which debuts Saturday, July 5—I had to slip in a couple of "90210" questions. I asked him if he would be reprising his role as the brooding Dylan McKay on the CW's new incarnation of the show, and this was his reply: "I have no comment on that. But, I do wish everyone involved the best of luck with it." Hopefully this means he is involved, but he has to keep it all a secret. But officially, it's "No comment."

■■■

Q: I read in the Sunday paper that Glenn Miller is buried in Arlington Cemetery. I've read many, many times that his body (or plane) was never recovered in the English Channel. -- Margaret H.

A: On Dec. 15, 1944, Glenn, the famed Swing Era musician and bandleader, was flying from the United Kingdom to France to play for soldiers who recently had liberated Paris. His plane disappeared in bad weather over the English Channel, and his remains and the wreckage of the plane were never found.

As a major with the U.S. Army, Glenn was eligible for a memorial headstone in Arlington National Cemetery as a servicemember who died on active duty and whose remains were not recoverable. At his daughter's request, a stone was placed in Memorial Section H, Number 464-A in April 1992.

■■■

Q: Whatever happened to country singer Jessica Andrews? She had a song out back in 2001 about Rosemary's granddaughter. It is special to me because my name is Rosemary, and my granddaughter and I danced to it at her wedding.—Rosemary W., Burlington, Wisc.

A: Jessica's most recent album, "Ain't That Life," was never released due to Dream Works Records' closure, and she has not recorded since. She also co-wrote a song called "About Life" for Julianne Hough's debut CD, which was released earlier this summer. Jessica, 24, tours occasionally, and performed several shows at Dollywood in her native Tennessee just a few weeks ago.

■■■

Q: As a longtime fan of "Crossing Jordan," I wonder if the series will be restarted now that series star Jill Hennessey has given birth—or was that just a rumor?—Charles L., via e-mail

A: It would appear that is just a rumor (although stranger things have happened, just ask the folks at "Family Guy"). Most of the actors involved have moved on to other projects, including a recording career for Jill.

Have a question for Cindy? E-mail her at letters@cindyelavsky.com, or write to her in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

'Spider-Man' could return in May 2011

HOLLYWOOD—Peter Parker is swinging back into the multiplex—but not for a while.

"Spider-Man" producer Laura Ziskin said the fourth installment in the web-slinging superhero series is tentatively scheduled to arrive in May 2011.

In remarks Thursday to theater owners from California and Nevada, Ziskin said there was no finished screenplay, but that she and Sony Pictures were hopeful "Spider-Man 4" could be ready in three years.

The first three movies make up one of the most successful franchises in modern Hollywood history, grossing a combined $2.5 billion worldwide. Neither star Tobey Maguire nor director Sam Raimi is committed to work on the next installment. But Sony has paid Marvel to renew its rights.

Before she tackles the next "Spider-Man," Ziskin is producing a one-hour fundraiser for cancer research that will be shown commercial-free on ABC, NBC and CBS on Sept. 5. Ziskin, a cancer survivor, showed the several hundred exhibitors a new theatrical public service announcement directed by David Fincher ("Fight Club") that promotes Ziskin's cancer cause, Stand Up to Cancer (online at www.standup2cancer.org). ***(Los Angeles Times)***

Coldplay's 'Viva' takes No. 1 spot

LOS ANGELES—Coldplay has kept the record industry's withering hopes for an upturn afloat for a second week by selling 721,000 copies of the group's new "Viva la Vida or Death and All His Friends" album during its first week of release.

It's no surprise that "Viva la Vida" shot to the top of the chart: The collection became the biggest pre-order in the history of the iTunes Store, the single "Viva la Vida" has given Coldplay its first No. 1 single and the group has been at full tilt promoting the album.

Coldplay performed earlier in June at the MTV Movie Awards and Monday at Madison Square Garden in New York and was scheduled to drop in Wednesday on "The Daily Show With Jon Stewart" and Friday on "The Tonight Show With Jay Leno."

The band's U.S. tour starts with performances July 14-15 at the Forum in Inglewood.

"Viva la Vida's" sales, just short of the 737,000 first-week figure Coldplay posted three years ago with "X&Y," easily would have been the best of 2008 if the album hadn't arrived just a week after New Orleans rapper Lil Wayne cracked the seven-figure sales mark with his latest, "Tha Carter III." That collection dropped to No. 2 with sales of 309,000.

The only other album to top the 100,000 sales mark last week was the soundtrack for the Disney Channel's "Camp Rock," starring the Jonas Brothers. It debuted at No. 3 after selling 188,000 copies. ***(Los Angeles Times)***

The passing of my husband of 55 years has made a turn in my life, my grandchildren and spouses, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. However, the love that we shared these many years have also been richly blessed with true friends, understanding and caring brothers and sisters, children and in-laws, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, cousins, neighbors, aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews and people in the health-care professions.

I am forever grateful for the monumental love poured over us during the many years past, the enthusiasm of the Pacific Medical Center's. CHC's doctors, nurses, surgeons, medical referral staff as well as the Asia Medical Center in Manila, to assist my husband during his illness.

When I saw the many faces during the weeks of mourning and on the burial day, heard the daily words of love and comfort over the phone on in person, smelled and tasted the daily food prepared for us and those who joined us, felt the warm hugs and kisses and received various support from our immediate and extended families, I was truly grateful.

on behalf of our children and their families, I wholeheartedly give my sincere gratitude to you all. I am forever grateful for the love that shone through your various support. May our Lord continue to bless us.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

Indeed, *until death' did we part.*

Luise B. Quitugua

AP

In this May 15, 2008 file photo, U.S. actors Brad Pitt, left, and Angelina Jolie arrive for the premiere of the film "Kung Fu Panda," during the 61st International film festival in Cannes, France.

Jolie, Pitt donate $1M to Iraqi kids

LOS ANGELES (AP)–Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie's love for children is by no means limited to their own: The couple has donated $1 million to help kids affected by the war in Iraq, the Education Partnership for Children of Conflict announced Wednesday.

The organization will distribute the donation, made through the couple's Jolie-Pitt Foundation, to four organizations working on behalf of children who have lost parents, homes and schools in Iraq. Children in the U.S. who have lost parents in the conflict will also benefit.

"These educational support programs for children of conflict are the best way to help them heal," said Jolie in a written statement from Education Partnership for Children of Conflict, which she co-chairs.

"We hope to encourage others to give to these great organizations," Pitt added in the statement.

The money will be divided between the Armed Services YMCA Operation Hero Program, which provides military children with counseling and educational support; Women for Women International, which will provide books, school supplies and other basic necessities to Iraqi women and children; the International Rescue Committee, which will repair three schools and offer classes for more than 2,500 students; and Nine-Million.org, which will give school uniforms and learning materials to more than 2,000 displaced Iraqi kids.

Last year, the Jolie-Pitt Foundation gave more than $300,000 to support the International Rescue Committee's relief program for Darfur refugees.

Jolie, who's expecting twins, has said the babies are due in August. She and Pitt have four children: Maddox, 6; Pax, 4; Zahara, 3; and Shiloh, 2.

43 grand for the blood of Tony Soprano

NEW YORK (AP)—One used, black and beige short-sleeve polo shirt, a tank top and black pants: $43,750.

Inflation run amok? Nope—just the premium you pay for the blood of Tony-Soprano.

Twenty-five outfits worn by James Gandolfini's alter ego raised $187,750 at auction Wednesday for a charity that aids wounded soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. Gandolfini attended part of the Christie's auction with a soldier from the nonprofit Wounded Warrior Project.

The highest bid was for the faux-bloodstained suit of clothes, including the shirt, tank top and pants the actor wore in a scene when Tony is shot by a demented Uncle Junior.

The next highest bid was $21,250 for a four-piece costume that included a blue, red and yellow striped robe and boxer shorts that Tony wore in numerous episodes of the smash HBO series.

AP

This undated file photo supplied by Christie's auction house shows a costume worn by the character Tony Soprano, played by actor James Gandolfini in HBO's series "The Sopranos."

Other top-selling outfits included a tan cotton bathrobe with lavender trim and 'S' insignia on the breast pocket that was featured in the pilot when Tony fetched the morning paper and fed the ducks in his pool. It fetched $13,750.

All of the outfits were authenticated by Gandolfini and many had the original production tags attached.

Trouble finds Tim McGraw at Washington show

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—If Tim McGraw isn't looking for trouble, it must've been looking for him. Fan video shot Tuesday in Auburn, Wash., shows the country singer help eject an unruly fan.

McGraw shouts "Get rid of this guy," summons security and helps arriving crew members haul him onstage. When the heavyset fan moves toward McGraw, the singer threatens him with a cocked fist as he's hauled away.

The band's performance of "Indian Outlaw" never stopped. And as if on cue, McGraw steps to the mic and picks up with the line "I ain't lookin' for trouble ... ."

A statement from McGraw's representative says he witnessed the man rush up and attack a female, and he intervened when security couldn't respond quickly enough.

Tom Hanks loses construction dispute

KETCHUM, Idaho (AP)—A Blaine County judge has rejected Tom Hanks' second request for arbitration over what the actor says was $2.5 million in faulty workmanship by the construction company that built his sprawling compound north of this central Idaho resort town.

Following the decision, a lawyer for the construction company said it will seek monetary damages from Hanks and his wife, Rita Wilson, for what it alleges was "abuse of process" for filing the second arbitration request.

Fifth District Court Judge Robert Elgee ruled late last week that the dispute between Hanks and Storey Construction Inc. had already been decided in 2004 when the American Arbitration Association ruled in favor of Storey and awarded the company $1.85 million in unpaid contract balance, interest and legal fees.

In November, Hanks and Wilson filed the second arbitration request, alleging "latent" construction defects had been discovered. Elgee rejected that request.

"The judge essentially ruled that they had their chance in the prior arbitration," Miles Stanislaw, a Ketchum attorney representing Storey, told the Idaho Mountain Express. "So unlike the movies where you get to do it over again, in Blaine County you don't get a do-over if you don't like the results the first time around."

New York public relations firm 42 West, which represents Hanks and Wilson, issued a statement saying an appeal is likely by Sun Valley Trust, the company listed as the owner of the property.

"The court ruled against Sun Valley Trust, but also admitted that its decision was harsh," John Hanover, an attorney with Los Angeles-based Peckar and Abramson, said in the statement.

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Wall-E
Fri and Sat 1:15 4:05 7:05 9:40
Sun - Thurs 1:15 4:05 7:05
Wall-E as played by Tracy McGrady
Comedy, Action, Animation • Rated G ●
Synopsis
Maxwell Smart is on a mission to thwart the latest plot for world domination by the evil crime syndicate known as KAOS. When the headquarters of U.S. spy agency Control is attacked and the identities of its agents compromised, the Chief has no choice but to promote his ever-eager analyst Maxwell Smart, who has always dreamt of working in the field alongside stalwart superstar Agent 23. Smart is partnered instead with the lovely-but-lethal veteran Agent 99. Given little field experience and even less time, Smart–armed with nothing but a few spy-tech gadgets and his unbridled enthusiasm—must thwart the doomsday plans of KAOS head Siegfried.

Wanted
Fri and Sat 1:20 4:10 7:25 9:40
Sun - Thurs 1:20 4:10 7:25
James McAvoy, Angelina Jolie
Action • Rated R ■
Synopsis
Guru Pitka was once an ordinary American child, until his family left him at the gates of an Indian ashram to be raised by the exhaulted Guru Tugginmypuddha. Growing up in the small fishing village of Harenmahkeester, Pitka was schooled in the inner secrets of spiritual attainment along with his friend and sole rival, Deepak Chopra. But now, Chopra is a massive celebrity in America, and Pitka is still playing second-fiddle without even an "Oprah" episode on his resume. Determined to share his unending insights into the nature of life and get famous to boot, Pitka responds to a fateful call for help from Jane Bullard, owner of the Toronto Maple Leafs hockey team.

★ ★ ★

Get Smart
Fri and Sat 1:00 4:15 7:10 9:45
Sun - Thurs 1:00 4:15 7:10
Steve Carell, Anne Hathaway
Comedy, Adaptation • Rated PG 13 ■
Synopsis
In this new beginning, scientist Bruce Banner desperately hunts for a cure to the gamma radiation that poisoned his cells and unleashes the unbridled force of rage within him: The Hulk. Living in the shadows—cut off from a life he knew and the woman he loves, Betty Ross—Banner struggles to avoid the obsessive pursuit of his nemesis, General Thunderbolt Ross, and the military machinery that seeks to capture him and brutally exploit his power. As all three grapple with the secrets that led to The Hulk's creation, they are confronted with a monstrous new adversary known as The Abomination, whose destructive strength exceeds even The Hulk's own.

The Love Guru
Fri and Sat 1:30 4:25 7:15 10:00
Sun - Thurs 1:30 4:25 7:15
Mike Myers, Jessica Alba
Comedy • Rated PG 13 ■

Incredible Hulk
Fri and Sat 1:25 4:00 7:00 9:55
Sun - Thurs 1:25 4:00 7:00
Edward Norton, Liv Tyler
Action, Adaptation • Rated PG 13 ■

The Happening
Fri and Sat 1:10 4:30 7:20 9:35
Sun - Thurs 1:10 4:30 7:20
Mark Wahlberg, John Leguizamo
Action, Thriller • Rated R ■

Kung Fu Panda
Fri and Sat 1:05 4:20 7:30 9:30
Sun - Thurs 1:05 4:20 7:30
Jack Black (v), Dustin Hoffman (v)
Comedy, Action, Animation • Rated PG ■

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Kid Rock urges fans to 'steal everything'

DETROIT (AP)—Kid Rock wants fans to know it's OK to illegally download his music.

And while they're at it, they should steal cars, designer clothes and iPods, too.

Well, maybe not.

The 37-year-old Detroit musician posted a "special announcement" on YouTube last week urging fans to "steal everything."

Kid Rock says in the video that he's so rich, he can't complain if fans steal a song or two off the Internet without paying him.

In fact, he says, people should "level the playing field" by stealing anything they need from wealthy corporations.

He mentions laptops, iPods, Toyota vehicles ("It's a foreign car company, so who cares?"), gasoline and Tommy Hilfiger clothing as potential targets for the five-finger discount.

But the rap-rocker, who has resisted selling his music on iTunes and other online stores, tells The Associated Press he was just kidding.

In this May 18, 2008 file photo Rock singer Kid Rock performs during a concert as part of Rock on the Range in Columbus, Ohio.

AP

"I was just trying to have some fun with it," Kid Rock said before playing in Wednesday's Buick Open Pro-Am, with friend and pro golfer John Daly, at Warwick Hills near Flint.

The video had more than 100,000 views as of Wednesday afternoon.

Brown and Springer to co-host Miss Universe pageant

NEW YORK (AP)—Jerry Springer and Melanie Brown will co-host the 2008 Miss Universe pageant, which will air live from Nha Trang, Vietnam, on July 13.

Springer, 64, is host of NBC's "America's Got Talent," and Brown, 33, is a special events correspondent for "Access Hollywood." (Brown is also known as Mel B of the Spice Girls.)

The pageant will be televised on NBC and the network's Spanish-language channel Telemundo.

Contestants representing 80 countries are judged in three categories: swimsuit, evening gown and interview.

Riyo Mori, a dancer from Japan, won the 2007 Miss Universe contest in Mexico City. She has traveled the globe as an advocate for HIV/AIDS education, research and legislation.

AP

Singer Melanie Brown poses on the press line at the Interscope Geffen A&M BET after party in Beverly Hills, Calif. on Tuesday, June 24, 2008.

Cher harassed at Nashville club, man is arrested

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—A Nashville man has been charged with disorderly conduct and public intoxication after he repeatedly harassed Cher at the famed honky-tonk Tootsies Orchid Lounge.

Police say 36-year-old Calvin Hutton Houghland tried to make contact with Cher early Wednesday morning and was asked to leave the club. He complied, police said, but returned a short time later and grabbed Cher by the waist as the singer-actress sat in a roped-off area of the lounge.

Houghland was escorted from the bar, but returned again. When security blocked his attempts to approach the singer, Houghland called police to say he'd been assaulted.

Police say Cher declined to prosecute but Houghland asked to be arrested.

Houghland failed a self-requested field sobriety test. His bond was set at $3,000.

AP

In this Feb. 10, 2008 file photo, Cher is seen on stage at the 50th Annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles.

Alec Baldwin heard on NYC homelessness group ad

NEW YORK (AP)—Alec Baldwin is lending his voice to critics of New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg's homelessness policies.

The "30 Rock" actor narrates a public service announcement released by the Coalition for the Homeless, a charity blasting Bloomberg's follow-through on a 2004 pledge to slash the number of homeless New Yorkers.

Over footage of people on city streets, Baldwin recites statistics such as "over 40,000 New Yorkers will go to sleep homeless tonight." A coalition spokeswoman says the spot will be televised on various networks.

Baldwin

The city Department of Homeless Services says the number of homeless people on Manhattan streets and in shelters is shrinking, which the coalition disputes.

Baldwin's representatives didn't immediately return phone calls Wednesday. The 50-year-old actor is an enthusiastic Democrat who often speaks out on political matters.

Kate Mulgrew joins the cast of Broadway's 'Equus'

NEW YORK (AP)—From "Star Trek: Voyager" to "Equus." Kate Mulgrew is joining "Harry Potter" star Daniel Radcliffe and Richard Griffiths in the revival of Peter Shaffer's "Equus," which opens Sept. 25 on Broadway.

Mulgrew will play a sympathetic magistrate who champions the case of a young man (Radcliffe) who blinds six horses.

Mulgrew

Griffiths, who appeared with Radcliffe in a recent London production of the play, will portray a psychiatrist investigating the incident.

Preview performances begin Sept. 5 at the Broadhurst Theatre.

In addition to her "Star Trek" TV series, Mulgrew has appeared on stage as Katharine Hepburn in the one-woman play "Tea at Five."

Other casting will be announced at a later date.

Vulgar new member puts pall on family celebrations

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am a woman in my late 40s. My father and siblings all live in the same town. We have always been close and spend holidays, birthdays, etc. together, even as our families have grown.

Last year my brother's daughter married a horrible man I'll call "Willard." Willard is rude, vulgar and makes constant sexual innuendos. The rest of the family have decided to have nothing to do with my brother's family because of it. We're afraid to invite them to gatherings and holidays for fear that Willard will come with the rest.

We have talked about it with my brother and his wife. They feel that because Willard has become part of their family, he should be accepted whether we like him or not. Another problem: My brother thinks Willard is "wonderful" and says nothing when he's out of line. Is it time for us to also cut them off, or do you have any other ideas?

TORN IN TUCSON

DEAR TORN: It is not your brother's job to muzzle his son-in-law when the man becomes offensive. Invite the family to one more gathering, and when Willard steps out of line, the person he offends should speak up. If Willard does not stop, do not invite him again.

By the way, when "children" are grown they should receive invitations of their own and not expect to "tag along" with their parents. Your brother should not be ostracized because of his son-in-law's bad behavior. However, if he chooses to estrange himself in order to "punish" you for drawing the line, the choice will be his.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My fiance, "Blake," called off our engagement recently. He has a 4-year-old son, "Danny," with whom I grew very close during our 3 1/2-year relationship. Danny lives with his grandmother, and she and I also have a close relationship. Danny's mother has never been in the picture, and Blake and I would see the boy every weekend.

The grandmother called me recently and asked if I would still like to see Danny. I want to do what's best for the child. I do not wish to use him as a way to stay in my ex-fiance's life. I grew very attached to Danny and, near the end of my relationship with Blake, he had begun to call me "Mommy." I had hoped that one day we would be a family and he wouldn't have to endure another mother figure leaving him.

Would it be best for Danny to continue to see me, or should I leave him alone?

ALMOST MOM IN SARASOTA

DEAR ALMOST MOM: Because you have been close to Danny for more than three-fourths of his short life, I see no reason why you shouldn't see him. However, you should no longer allow him to call you "Mommy." Tell him that you love him, but he should call you "Aunty" because you will not be living with him. That way you can still have a warm relationship with the boy, even if his father marries someone else who would assume the mommy role.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Does a house "burn up" or "burn down"?

HOT TOPIC IN ASHEBORO, N.C.

DEAR "HOT": It does both, depending upon where the fire starts. According to the Beverly Hills Fire Department, if a fire starts in the attic, it burns down -- and if it starts on the first floor, it burns up.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Pastimes

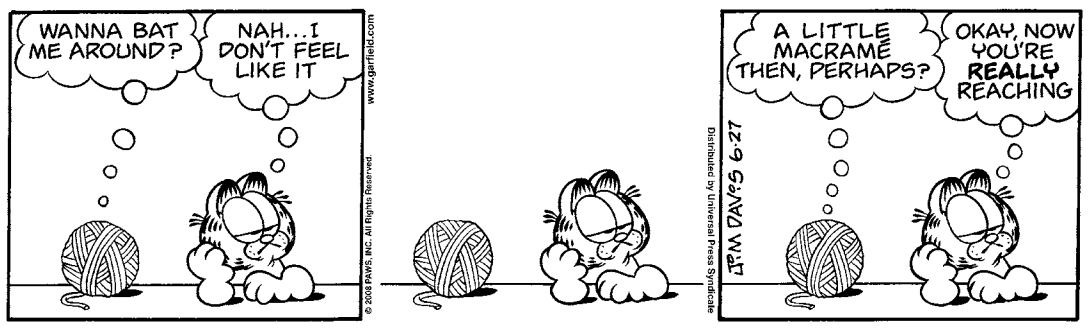
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

WHATCHA DOIN', DAD? PAINTING A PICTURE?
YEP.
WHAT'S THAT THING? A BRONTOSAURUS WITH RABIES?
IT'S THAT ISLAND OVER THERE.
OH.
HOW FAR CAN YOU SEE WITHOUT YOUR GLASSES? CAN YOU SEE ME?
WHEN I LOOK UP, I'D BETTER NOT BE ABLE TO.
©1988 Universal Press Syndicate
6/27

Garfield®

By Jim Davis


WANNA BAT ME AROUND?
NAH...I DON'T FEEL LIKE IT
A LITTLE MACRAMÉ THEN, PERHAPS?
OKAY, NOW YOU'RE REALLY REACHING
JIM DAVIS 6-27
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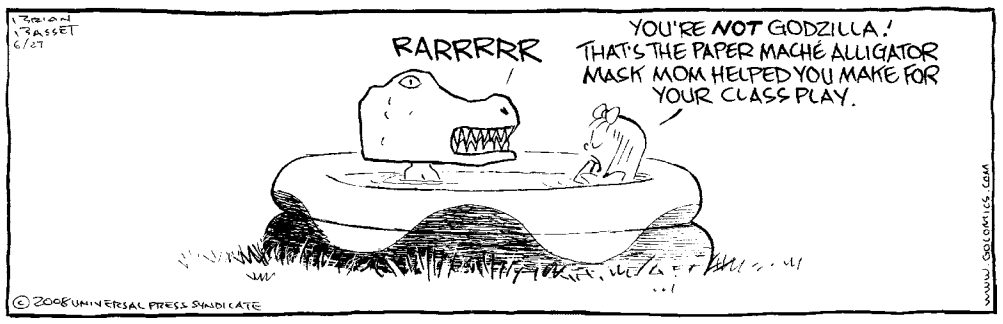
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset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YOU'RE NOT GODZILLA! THAT'S THE PAPER MACHÉ ALLIGATOR MASK MOM HELPED YOU MAKE FOR YOUR CLASS PLAY.
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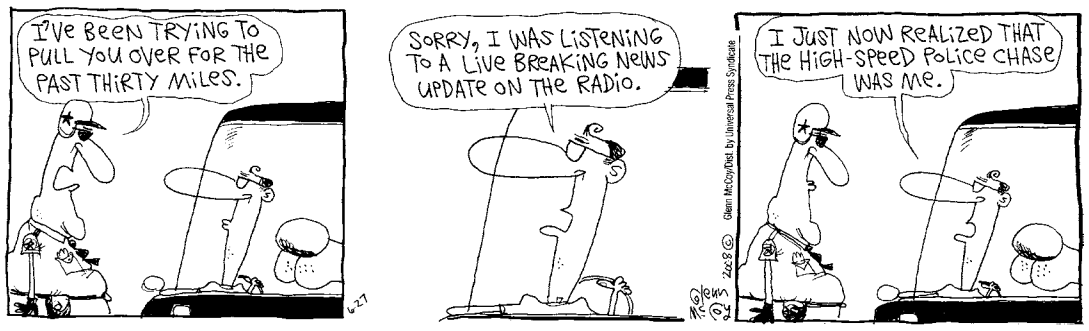
The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


I'VE BEEN TRYING TO PULL YOU OVER FOR THE PAST THIRTY MILES.
SORRY, I WAS LISTENING TO A LIVE BREAKING NEWS UPDATE ON THE RADIO.
I JUST NOW REALIZED THAT THE HIGH-SPEED POLICE CHASE WAS ME.
Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Press Syndicate
2008

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

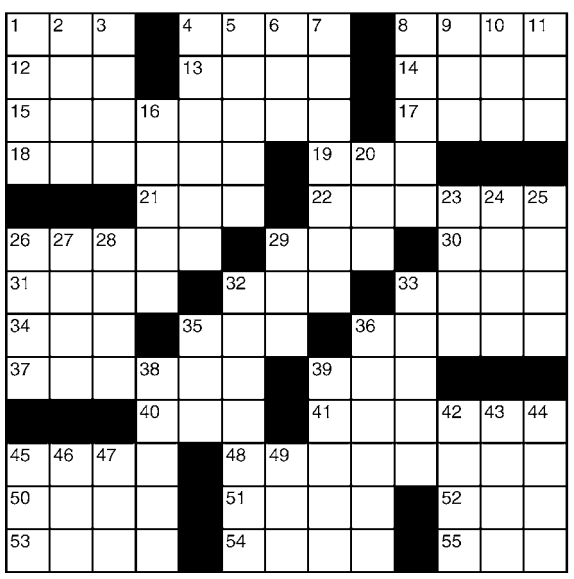
ACROSS
1 Meadow
4 Penicillin provider
8 Japheth's dad
12 Bobby of hockey
13 Duel tool
14 Grooving on
15 Mixed drink
17 Start a garden
18 Source
19 Prior night
21 Speck
22 Take in, maybe
26 Esteem
29 Examine critically
30 Sapporo sash
31 Quite some time
32 Kennedy or Koppel
33 Navy jail
34 Savings plan acronym
35 "Simpsons" network
36 Borscht needs
37 Sell in small quantities
39 Lummox
40 — and outs
41 Nike symbol
45 Missing
48 Drive too close
50 Grand story
51 Curved molding
52 Rocky peak
53 Draw with a laser
54 Play area
55 Hot tub

DOWN
1 Places
2 Piccadilly statue
3 Curved lines
4 Shower participant?
5 Dizzying designs
6 Mainlander's memento
7 Taken out of context?
8 Japanese-Americans
9 Indivisible
10 Corroded
11 Scuttle
16 Praise
20 Cistern
23 Traditional tales
24 Final notice
25 Cheats, a la "Quiz Show"
26 "Aquarius" musical
27 Shrek, for one
28 Tidy
29 Irritate
32 "War and Peace" author
33 Confuse
35 Shark part
36 Wept loudly
38 Eighth letter
39 Wicker willow
42 Feedbag fill
43 Call a halt to
44 Mrs. Zeus
45 Shelter
46 Make up your mind
47 "— semper tyrannis"
49 Khan title

Solution time: 25 mins.

B	E	S	T	■	B	A	G	S	■	B	A	A
A	L	O	E	■	A	G	U	E	■	A	C	T
B	A	R	C	E	L	O	N	A	■	R	H	O
A	N	T	H	E	M	■	■	T	O	T	E	M
■	■	■	I	N	■	B	A	S	I	L	■	■
B	A	B	E	■	R	A	G	■	L	E	O	N
U	S	A	■	O	R	E	■	T	W	O	■	■
G	I	R	L	■	O	K	S	■	S	T	E	M
■	■	B	E	A	M	S	■	W	E	■	■	■
C	H	A	I	R	■	■	C	R	A	V	A	T
L	I	D	■	B	A	R	R	Y	M	O	R	E
A	D	O	■	O	L	I	O	■	E	L	M	S
Y	E	S	■	R	A	M	P	■	N	E	S	T

Yesterday's answer 6-27



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Madylin Sweeten, 17; Drake Bell, 22; Tobey Maguire, 33; Julia Duffy, 57

Happy Birthday: If you believe in something, follow through and you will make a difference in the end. Become well-versed in all you need to follow your goals to the end. Be ready to go it alone if you must. The strength and courage you show will be how others judge you this year, so don't let them down. Your numbers are 6, 17, 22, 34, 39, 46

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Personal problems will be magnified to outrageous proportions if you don't massage the situation with family and friends immediately. Don't back down or give in to someone who is being a bully. Show everyone you expect compromise. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Hidden matters will be revealed. Love is in the stars and a serious commitment can be made. Older and younger people in your life will give you the lowdown, so don't disregard the input given even if it hurts or makes you angry. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): The things you enjoy doing most will bring you the highest rewards. Getting together with like-minded people will captivate your imagination and allow you to put your skills to work. Someone you meet at a fundraiser will interest you. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't be fooled into thinking someone can do something better than you. You can win any challenge or competition you face if you proceed with confidence. A partnership will help you raise your financial position. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Stop avoiding people and situations that need to be addressed. Standing up and taking care of business will show your strength, courage and ability to be a leader. Clear these matters up quickly even if it means taking a loss. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Stick to what and whom you know for best results. As soon as you hire or work with someone different, you will have to retrain to meet your specifications. There is money to be made if things are done right. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Meeting someone halfway will ensure you don't lose out altogether. It may cost you financially if you don't take a closer look and admit you may have made a mistake. Overreacting will cause emotional problems. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Make time for fun, love, travel, adventure and anything else that will stimulate you mentally and physically. Sometimes taking a break from what you've been laboring on a long time helps put things in perspective and allows you to come up with solutions. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Travel, if necessary, to convince someone to help you with something important to you. Strive for perfection, not change, and you will advance faster. It's better to work with what you've already got than to start from scratch. ✪✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't make promises you cannot keep. You may feel sorry for someone but you don't have to take over his or her responsibilities. Put your time and effort into your love life for a change. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Someone will question you if you use emotional blackmail to get your way. In the end, honesty will be your only route to victory. Someone you've known for a long time will be willing to help you out or offer you a position. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Stick around home and help whoever is having a rough time. Your ideas and contributions will put you in a league of your own and prove how dedicated you are to those you love. Plan something romantic for late in the day. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are a dreamer, a visionary and a very competitive individual. You are aggressive, inventive and know how to use the power of persuasion.

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EUGENIA LAST

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

6								9
				3		1		
	2		4		6			
		9				5		
	5			8			1	
		1				3		
			5		2		4	
		8		9				
3								2

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 6/27

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	8	7	3	4	6	5	9	1
3	1	6	9	5	2	7	8	4
5	9	4	8	1	7	6	2	3
6	4	3	5	2	1	8	7	9
8	7	2	6	3	9	4	1	5
1	5	9	7	8	4	3	6	2
7	6	1	4	9	3	2	5	8
9	3	5	2	6	8	1	4	7
4	2	8	1	7	5	9	3	6

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/26

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

TACOS **Solution: 7 letters**

D	E	T	A	G	N	O	L	E	T	A	L	P	E	L
W	O	G	R	I	L	L	S	I	L	I	H	C	G	L
S	H	R	E	D	D	E	D	P	I	N	C	H	A	E
S	T	E	A	K	S	M	M	K	O	O	C	E	S	H
T	T	A	A	D	E	R	H	A	R	D	O	E	U	S
S	E	S	O	T	O	S	V	E	I	E	N	S	A	N
A	K	E	A	U	A	N	U	E	R	Z	T	E	S	O
F	R	L	N	L	E	Q	L	L	A	G	E	D	T	I
K	A	D	S	E	A	O	U	G	N	R	N	I	O	N
A	M	A	W	T	M	D	N	I	O	A	T	B	R	O
E	R	T	P	A	E	I	F	D	T	A	S	L	T	T
R	E	U	C	C	L	F	A	S	C	O	T	E	I	A
B	P	A	I	L	U	S	R	O	D	N	E	V	L	M
M	U	L	I	T	A	O	C	A	B	R	A	B	L	O
G	S	F	S	E	A	S	O	N	E	D	M	E	A	T

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Asador, Barbacoa, Between, Breakfast, Cheese, Chili, Contents, Cook, Dorado, Edible, Elongated, Filling, Flauta, Grease, Grills, Guacamole, Hard, Maize, Meat, Metal, Mulita, Onions, Pinch, Plate, Round, Salsa, Sausage, Seasoned, Shell, Shredded, Sliced, Stands, Steaks, Steam, Stuffing, Supermarket, Taco, Taquero, Taquito, Tomato, Tortilla, Vendor, Wheat

Yesterdays Answer: Bluff

SALE: The topics of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but the puzzle-difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just $4 each (U.S. funds only), payable to Universal Press Syndicate. Include $3 postage for the first book order, $1 each for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free, 1-800-255-5734, ext. 6688. Sorry, no online orders for this special offer.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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Apartment Room for Rent
2BR $210. 3BR $270, Koblerville.
Tel. # 288-0728-Yoon Won Suck

FOR RENT - COMMERCIAL

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2006 Mitsubishi Lancer Ralli, 4-cyl., blue, 14,700 mileage. $9,500.
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WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

SPRING
SUMMER
AUTUMN
WINTER

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

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• 3-Liner	$25
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• 3-Liner with picture	$45
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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

All job vacancy announcements will be published for two issues in each of two successive weeks.

1st position	**$13.00**
2nd position	**$5.00**
Succeeding positions	**$2.00**

These rates apply to all job vacancy announcements on Saipan that include corresponding benefits and positions that are all under the same company name and dba.

Newspaper clippings are also available for $.25 per copy.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor - Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan , MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW08-IFB-023

ROUTE 101 ROAD IMPROVEMENTS, ROTA
FEDERAL-AID HIGHWAY PROJECT NO. CM-NH-0101(001)

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the **Route 101 Road Improvements, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).**

The project package will be available on or after June 13, 2008 at Pacific Quick Print & Post, Chalan Pale Arnold, Saipan. A non-refundable payment to Pacific Quick Print & Post, amount to be determined, is required for each set. All interested bidders are also required to include (insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24,2001, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 1595 and as further amended by Public Law 15-] 18, **is not available** to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project. All wages rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid the current minimum wage as required by the CNMI law & Federal Law

A Pre-bid Conference is scheduled for June 30, 2008, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Secretary Office, Gualo Rai. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site and conditions of the project. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:00 p.m. local time on July 7, 2008 to Mr. Joseph M. Inos, Jr., Director of Technical Services Division, DPW Technical Services Division, 2"d Floor, Oleai Center, or fax to (670) 235-6346.

Sealed bids must be marked "**DPW08-IFB-023**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 2:00 p.m. local time, July 15, 2008. Bidders located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply ~~no later than 2:00 p.m. loca~~l time no later than July 15, 2008, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than July 15, 2008, and must be received no later than July 22,2008. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 9:00 a.m. local time, July 25, 2008, However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on July 18, 2008.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660".

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is Ninety **(90)** calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed according to Table 108-1 of the Standard Specification for Construction and Bridges on Federal Projects FP-96.

This project is funded in part by a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation **(DOT)**, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Contract award is contingent upon funding approval by the FHWA.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the **CNMI Government.** The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

Mediate makes the most of his brush with Tiger

GRAND BLANC, Mich. (AP)—Rocco Mediate was told a story about how a father and his 3-year-old daughter were riveted to the U.S. Open, walking from "Dora the Explorer" to watch the 72nd hole when Tiger Woods made a putt to force a playoff.

"I think that's so cool," Mediate said.

Before playing in the first round of the Buick Open on Thursday, Mediate took a look back at his memorable matchup with Woods that attracted millions of viewers from coast to coast.

"The amazing thing is how many people said, 'My mother or my father who never watches golf couldn't take his eyes off the television,'" he said. "Obviously wasn't because of me, it was because of Tiger. But it was because of the match it turned into.

"I heard hundreds of stories like that."

As the PGA Tour embarks on life without Tiger for the rest of 2008, its commissioner and players are hoping new stories will be told about those who take advantage of opportunities without the world's No. 1 golfer around to physically and mentally dominate.

Even though Woods was recovering Wednesday from season-ending knee surgery, his likeness was everywhere to promote the Buick Open and his legacy was a topic of discussion at Warwick Hills.

His image is plastered on three sides of Buicks in the parking lot, on pairings sheets and billboards in the Detroit and Flint areas.

Buick Open officials expected Woods to be in the field for the ninth time since 1997.

But Woods announced last week he would be out until 2009 after competing with a double-stress fracture and a torn knee ligament over 91 holes to win the U.S. Open in a playoff over Mediate.

"If it was anybody else that I would have lost to, I would have been devastated right now," Mediate said.

Instead, Mediate has soaked up the attention generated by playing a part in a sporting event that will always be remembered.

"I've actually had a lot of fun with it," he said. "I've always been with the people and talked to people, so I just talk to more people."

Across the room at a packed news conference, a Florida Southern College roommate beamed.

"No one has ever won so much by losing," said Steve Puertas, who hosts Mediate at his home in suburban Detroit during the Buick Open. "And it couldn't happened to a better guy."

Mediate also can take solace in the fact that he didn't blow the U.S. Open, but rather came up just short of stopping Woods from claiming his 14th major.

"This guy does things that are just not normal by any stretch of the imagination," Mediate said.

Kenny Perry agreed.

"He beat everybody on one leg," Perry said.

PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem also marvels at Woods' talent and mental toughness.

Finchem, bristles, though at the notion that his absence renders tournaments to being irrelevant.

"It's just ludicrous," Finchem said after taking part in a ceremony honoring the Buick Open's 50th anniversary. "He played 17 events last year and we have 47."

Finchem acknowledged TV ratings dip without Woods because casual viewers tune out and that likely will be the case this week.

Jim Furyk (No. 12), Justin Leonard (No. 23) and Perry (No. 27) are the only players among the top 30 in the world at the Buick Open and the lackluster field includes nine of the top 50 in the world ranking.

If Woods was playing, few would focus on those facts.

But because Woods makes the Buick Open a regular stop, his presence or lack of it has an obvious impact on the gallery and buzz 45 miles north of Detroit.

"I think it will have less impact on tournaments where he didn't play in the past or the British Open or the PGA," Furyk said. "It's a definite hit for Warwick Hills and the Buick Open.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES

The Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities (Council) is soliciting applications for the position of Executive Director. The Council is a private, non-profit corporation affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities. Its mission is to foster awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the humanities through support of educational programs that relate the humanities to the indigenous cultures and to the intellectual needs and interests of the people of the Commonwealth. The Council is governed by a 13-member Board of Directors that represents a broad cross section of the community.

The Executive Director is responsible for developing, implementing and evaluating a wide variety of humanities programming in consultation with the Council's board of directors. Other major duties include supervising a two person staff, administering an annual budget of approximately $300,000 and coordinating with a wide variety of public and private organizations and the general public to realize the Council's goals and objectives. A detailed description of the Executive Director's duties is available at the Council's office in Kings Plaza in Dandan.

Applicants for this position must possess strong leadership, administrative, writing, computer and inter-personal skills, be able to work effectively in a multicultural environment, be able to prepare and review grant applications and annual budgets, and be knowledgeable about the history and cultures of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Micronesian region. Although a Master degree is preferred, applicants must possess a bachelor's degree from an accredited post-secondary institution and have experience administering federal programs. The starting salary ranges from $42,000 to $45,000 depending on qualifications and experience. The Executive Director serves at the pleasure of the Board of Directors.

Applicants are invited to submit their letter of intent, resume, and the names (with current contact information) of at least three references to Dr. Debra T. Cabrera, Chair, Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities, P.O. Box 506437, Saipan, MP 96950 (no faxes or e-mails, please). Complete application packages must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on July 31, 2008 to be considered. The Council may chose to interview applicants before making a final selection. The Council is an equal opportunity employer.

BANK OF SAIPAN
Marianas Pride

Statement of Financial Condition
(at the close of business December 31, 2006 and December 31, 2007)
(in thousands of dollars)

ASSETS	2006	2007
Cash and due from banks	$ 3,966	$ 5,967
Interest bearing deposits in other bank	$ 550	$ 758
Investment securities	$ 3,404	$ 2,272
Loans (net)	$ 13,900	$ 13,185
Accrued interest receivable	$ 156	$ 246
Other assets	$ 299	$ 41
Premises and equipment (net)	$ 326	$ 303
Foreclosed real estate (net)	$ 128	$ 219
Total Assets	$ 22,729	$ 22,991
Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity		
Deposits:		
Non-interest bearing	$ 3,176	$ 4,208
Interest bearing	$ 15,138	$ 14,064
Total deposits	$ 18,314	$ 18,272
Accrued interest payable	$ 48	$ 107
Accrued expenses and other liabilities	$ 394	$ 323
Total Liabilities	$ 18,756	$ 18,702
Shareholders Equity:		
Common Stock	$ 2,504	$ 2,504
Additional paid in capital	$ 6,073	$ 6,073
Accumulated deficit	$(2,048)	$ (1,732)
Treasury stock	$(2,556)	$ (2,556)
Total Stockholders' Equity	$ 3,973	$ 4,289
Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity	$ 22,729	$ 25,991

Audited financial statements are available for review at the Office of Director of Banking

Safin stuns Djokovic, Federer wins

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)—A match involving Marat Safin is always worth watching. He's liable to moon the crowd, smash several rackets or dominate the world's best player, as he did against Pete Sampras in the 2000 U.S. Open final.

For a change, Wimbledon inspired Safin's best behavior and tennis Wednesday, much to the chagrin of Novak Djokovic. Finally comfortable on the grass he long has loathed, Safin pulled off the biggest upset of the tournament so far with a workmanlike performance to beat the third-ranked Djokovic 6-4, 7-6 (3), 6-2.

Safin has been battling a slump for months, or even years, and the big Russian expressed surprise to find himself in the third round.

"The last time I won two matches in a row was I don't remember when," he said.

Djokovic, this year's Australian Open champion, was dismayed to catch the erratic Safin at a peak.

"I didn't expect it, honestly saying," Djokovic said. "Playing him on Centre Court obviously motivates him more to do well."

Safin's stunner made a good day even better for No. 1-ranked Roger Federer, who beat Robin Soderling 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 (3). Djokovic was in the same half of the draw and posed a potential impediment to Federer's bid for a sixth consecutive Wimbledon title.

While Djokovic made his earliest exit at a major event in 2 1/2 years, a lucky bounce for new No. 1 Ana Ivanovic prevented a double defeat for Serbia. Facing match point in the second set, Ivanovic hit a forehand that hopped over the net cord for a winner, and more than 90 minutes later she completed a victory over Nathalie Dechy, 6-7 (2), 7-6 (3), 10-8.

"Someone from upstairs made the ball roll over," Ivanovic said. "If it wasn't for that net ... I would be booking my flight back home."

Dechy said she cried for an hour after Ivanovic won.

"Maybe today she can go and play the Lotto," Dechy said. "It would be a good day for her."

Two-time champion Serena Williams said she was less than thrilled about playing on Court 2, known as the "Graveyard of Champions," but there were no ghost sightings as she beat 17-year-old Urszula Radwanska 6-4, 6-4.

Williams will next face 2006 champion Amelie Mauresmo, who rallied past Virginia Ruano Pascual 4-6, 6-1, 6-1.

The two other Americans on the schedule also won. Bethanie Mattek reached the third round at a major event for the first time by beating Vera Dushevina 7-6 (6), 6-4, and she next plays 2007 runner-up Marion Bartoli. Bobby Reynolds matched his best Grand Slam showing when he defeated Frank Dancevic 4-6, 7-6 (10), 6-4, 6-4.

As for Safin: The grass-hating, nightlife-loving, racket-throwing Russian with the roller-coaster resume took the court figuring he might soon be back in Moscow.

"There is a flight at 8:30 leaving every evening," he said with a smile, "so I was almost there."

Safin's ranking has been falling faster than the shorts he dropped in glee to celebrate a nifty shot at the French Open four years ago. He arrived in London at No. 75 with a record of 10-13 this year, and he hasn't won a tournament since 2006.

It has been a humbling, frustrating stretch for a two-time Grand Slam champion once ranked No. 1.

"I was losing left and right," said Safin, 28. "I started to get a little bit desperate because I've been working really hard week after week. The results are not coming, not coming. You need to be really strong mentally to continue."

After the French Open, Safin was no longer even the most celebrated player in his family. Younger sister Dinara Safina reached a major final for the first time at Roland Garros before losing to Ivanovic.

The first-round schedule at Wimbledon showed how far Safin has slipped: He and Fabio Fognini found themselves playing at the south end of the All England Club, next to the hospitality tents.

"I played on Court 11, which is almost in another club," Safin said. "My ranking dropped, so where you expect me to play? Not many people care about the match."

That victory earned him a promotion to the most famous stage in tennis, where Safin has rarely enjoyed much success. He hasn't been beyond the third round at Wimbledon since 2002 and has often complained about the surface, the weather and even the food.

"What did I say? `The strawberries are too expensive.' It's true. `They don't have enough for dessert.' It's true. ... I was right I think in what I said. I didn't make any lies."

While Safin's criticism failed to bring down concession prices, the club has slowed down the courts, much to his delight. A higher bounce allows him to stay in the backcourt, where he can whack his muscular groundstrokes.

"The courts have been getting slower and slower throughout the years," Safin said. "It's not any more like they used to be like eight years ago. It was really fast, and now you can play from the baseline and nobody even getting close to the net."

With Safin in his comfort zone, Djokovic found himself in trouble from the start, falling behind love-40 on his serve in the first game. He rallied to hold but was broken twice in a row to fall behind 4-3.

Two games later, when Safin served for the first set, he shanked a serve that landed 10 feet beyond the baseline, then fell behind love-30. It was a pivotal moment: If Safin let the game slip away, he might well go into meltdown mode.

"He's known for his, you know, mental instability," Djokovic said.

Instead, Safin calmly closed out the game and the set, and it was Djokovic who unraveled. He double-faulted five times in the last set, including on the final two points, and his tournament ended not with a trophy but with a stinging critique from Safin.

"He didn't impress me with his game today," Safin said. "I could read his serve. I could return. I could stay with him from the baseline, and that's it."

Safin next faces No. 29-seeded Andreas Seppi, and it's a safe bet the match won't take place on Court 11.

AP

Russia's Marat Safin reacts after defeating Serbia's Novak Djokovic in their Men's Singles, second round match on the Centre Court at Wimbledon, Wednesday, June 25, 2008.

Giants give G Chris Snee 6-year, $43.5M extension

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—The New York Giants guaranteed that their offensive line will stay together for the foreseeable future, signing guard Chris Snee on Wednesday to a six-year, $43.5 million contract extension.

Snee, 26, will earn nearly $24 million in the first three years of the deal, agent Tony Agnone said.

The extension will keep the right guard under contract with the Super Bowl champions through 2014.

Since beating the New England Patriots for the NFL title in February, the Giants have locked up three starters on the offensive line. Left tackle David Diehl got a two-year extension last month that will keep him under contract through 2013 and pay him $31 million. Left guard Rich Seubert also got a new contract through 2013.

Right tackle Kareem McKenzie and center Shaun O'Hara are under contract through 2012.

"Chris thought re-signing everyone was important," Agnone said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press. "They can have a cohesive unit for a while now."

The signing will also keep the family happy. Snee is the son-in-law of coach Tom Coughlin. The Giants rewarded the coach after the Super Bowl with a four-year contract worth $21 million.

"I am just happy to have it done before the season and really just have peace of mind and not worry about it and go out and play," Snee said. "I had faith that it would be done."

A former second-round draft pick, Snee has started all 59 regular-season and six postseason games that he has played for the Giants. The former Boston College product has started 48 consecutive regular-season games. He missed the final five games of his rookie season because of an inflamed gland under his jaw.

"We are very pleased to get Chris extended," general manager Jerry Reese said. "He has been a tremendous player and person for us since day one. It's also very important to keep our offensive line intact."

The Giants scored 373 points, their fifth-highest total in franchise history, last season. New York averaged 134.3 yards rushing, fourth best in the league.

The Giants also acquired guard Kurt Quarterman off waivers from the Atlanta Falcons. He spent most of last season on the Falcons' practice squad.

NFL BRIEFS

Suspect in Walker case appears in Las Vegas court

LAS VEGAS (AP)—A man accused of robbing and beating Oakland Raiders receiver Javon Walker told a judge Wednesday that police pressured his girlfriend to press domestic violence charges against him before he was arrested in the Walker case. "My fiance, she was forced by the police, because of the other matter, to go forward with these accusations," Arfat Fadel said as he appeared by videoconference before Las Vegas justice of the peace Eugene Martin. Officer Ramon Denby, a Las Vegas police spokesman, declined to comment on Fadel's accusation because investigations were continuing in both cases. He did say that Fadel had not cooperated with investigators trying to identify a second man suspected of beating Walker. Martin advised Fadel to consult with his newly appointed public defense lawyer, Jeremy Storms, who told Fadel not to discuss the domestic violence case in open court. The judge also refused Fadel's request to reduce his $13,000 bail in that case and set a preliminary hearing for July 9 on felony kidnapping, coercion and misdemeanor domestic violence battery charges. Fadel remained jailed at the Clark County Detention Center.

NFL looking into arrest of Broncos WR Marshall

DENVER (AP)—The NFL is looking into the March 6 arrest of Denver Broncos wide receiver Brandon Marshall on a misdemeanor battery charge for allegedly hitting his girlfriend. NFL spokesman Greg Aiello confirmed the inquiry Wednesday but declined to comment further. Fulton County, Ga., authorities say no formal charges have been filed. Marshall's lawyer was in a meeting and unable to comment. The arrest was reported in Wednesday's editions of The Denver Post. Marshall's girlfriend filed an affidavit in Fulton County claiming Marshall hit her in the mouth and eye on March 4. Marshall, who owns homes in Denver and Atlanta, was released on a $1,000 bond. Separately, Marshall is scheduled for trial in September on a DUI charge stemming from an October 2007 arrest in Denver. He was arrested in March 2007 on a false imprisonment charge after allegedly blocking a woman who was trying to leave his home in Colorado. The charge was dismissed after he completed anger-management classes.

Joba dominant for 6 2-3 innings, Yankees rout Pirates

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Joba Chamberlain was dominant in his first major league win as a starter and the New York Yankees bounced back from one of their worst losses of the season, routing the Pittsburgh Pirates 10-0 Wednesday.

Derek Jeter went 3-for-3 and scored three runs, Bobby Abreu had a three-run homer among his three hits and Robinson Cano added a solo shot as the Yankees got 16 hits to shake off a 12-5 loss Tuesday that prompted manager Joe Girardi to say they "stunk."

The Yankees, winning their ninth in 12 games, were helped by two throwing errors by normally reliable Pirates shortstop Jack Wilson while taking a 3-0 lead in the third against Zach Duke (4-5). Abreu and Cano both went deep in a four-run sixth against reliever T.J. Beam.

Red Sox 5, Diamondbacks 0

At Boston, the 41-year-old Tim Wakefield outpitched 44-year-old Randy Johnson in a matchup for the aged and Boston beat Arizona.

And it was the youngest player in the Red Sox lineup, 24-year-old rookie Brandon Moss, who drove in the two runs Johnson (4-6) allowed in six innings. The Big Unit has lost his last five starts.

Not since Sept. 26, 1965, when 59-year-old Satchel Paige made a one-game comeback after a 12-year absence from the majors, had two pitchers of the combined age of Wakefield and Johnson started against each other in a Red Sox game, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

Kevin Cash hit a three-run homer in the eighth off Juan Cruz, his first homer since June 21, 2005, with Tampa Bay. Coco Crisp hit three doubles for Boston, while Arizona managed just three hits.

Rays 15, Marlins 3

At Miami, Carl Crawford had two home runs and a career-high five RBIs, and the first nine Tampa Bay batters reached and scored in what became a 10-run fifth inning against Florida.

Evan Longoria had three hits, including his 13th homer, and drove in three runs for the Rays, who came within one run of matching the biggest inning in franchise history.

Ben Zobrist also homered for Tampa Bay, which remained one game behind Boston in the AL East.

Mike Jacobs hit his 18th home run for Florida, which has lost eight of 12. Marlins starter Ryan Tucker (2-2) gave up seven runs and eight hits in four-plus innings.

Cubs 7, Orioles 4

At Chicago, Geovany Soto drove in three runs, Jim Edmonds homered and Chicago jumped on spot starter Matt Albers early and went on to beat Baltimore.

Jay Payton hit a pair of two-run homers off Cubs starter Ted Lilly (8-5) to lead the Orioles, who snapped Chicago's 14-game home winning streak Tuesday night.

Lilly went seven innings and gave up four runs. Kerry Wood struck out the side in the ninth for his 20th save in 24 chances.

Giants 4, Indians 1

At Cleveland, Barry Zito finally got an interleague win for San Francisco, pitching the Giants to a victory over Cleveland.

Zito (3-11) allowed one run and four hits in 6 2-3 innings, striking out four without a walk in his best start of the season. He bounced back from one of the shortest outings of his career last Wednesday when he lasted only two innings in a 7-2 loss to Detroit.

Jose Castillo had three hits, including a homer, for the Giants, who improved to 4-10 in interleague action, the same record Cleveland has against NL clubs this season.

AP

New York Yankees pitcher Joba Chamberlain delivers in the first inning of a baseball game against the Pittsburgh Pirates at Pittsburgh, Wednesday, June 25, 2008. T

Nationals 5, Angels 4

At Washington, Jesus Flores hit an RBI single off Scot Shields (3-2) with one out in the bottom of the ninth to give Washington a victory over Los Angeles.

The injury-riddled Nationals snapped a four-game skid and ended the Angels' five-game winning streak. Washington had lost seven of eight overall.

Lastings Milledge hit a two-run homer for the Nationals, ending an 0-for-14 slide. Jon Rauch (4-1) threw 1 2-3 perfect innings for the win.

Mets 8, Mariners 2

At New York, David Wright homered in his first two at-bats a night after getting his first day off this season, helping John Maine and the Mets rebound from two lackluster losses to lowly Seattle.

Jose Reyes added a three-run homer and Maine (8-5) didn't allow a hit until Jeremy Reed singled leading off the fifth inning.

Reds 6, Blue Jays 5, 10 innings

At Toronto, Ken Griffey Jr. hit his 602nd homer in the first inning and Jay Bruce drove in the go-ahead run with a sacrifice fly in the 10th to help Cincinnati beat Toronto.

Jared Burton (4-1) worked two scoreless innings for the win and Francisco Cordero earned his 15th save as the Reds won for the third time in 10 games.

Griffey opened the scoring with a two-run homer off Roy Halladay, his ninth of the season.

Royals 4, Rockies 2

At Kansas City, Missouri, Luke Hochevar pitched a career-high eight innings, Ross Gload drove in two runs and Kansas City beat Colorado for its fifth straight victory.

The last-place Royals swept the three-game series and improved the majors' best interleague record to 12-3. Kansas City has won 10 of 11, all against National League teams.

Hochevar (5-5), born in Colorado, held the Rockies to two runs and seven hits. Joakim Soria worked a perfect ninth for his 21st save in 22 opportunities.

Rangers 3, Astros 2

At Houston, Max Ramirez got his first two major league hits and the second one, a two-run homer, sent Texas to a win over Roy Oswalt and Houston.

Before the game, pitcher Shawn Chacon was suspended indefinitely by the team after he reportedly grabbed Houston general manager Ed Wade by the neck and threw him to the ground.

Twins 9, Padres 3

At San Diego, Greg Maddux's winless streak reached nine starts, the second-longest drought of his brilliant career, when Minnesota beat San Diego for its eighth straight victory.

Brendan Harris hit his second go-ahead homer in two nights, a two-run shot, and Maddux (3-6) squandered an early 3-0 lead. Pinch-hitter Craig Monroe added a two-run drive for the Twins and Carlos Gomez had three hits.

The Twins are last in the majors with 50 homers yet have hit four in two games at spacious Petco Park.

Minnesota's entire winning streak has come against NL teams. San Diego has lost four in a row and nine of 11.

Tigers 8, Cardinals 7

At Detroit, Gary Sheffield's RBI single in the ninth gave Detroit a win over St. Louis in a game that included a rain delay of nearly 2 1/2 hours.

Sheffield, who came off the disabled list Tuesday, and Carlos Guillen each had four hits for the Tigers.

Rick Ankiel hit two homers and drove in three runs, and Skip Schumaker also homered for St. Louis.

Phillies 4, Athletics 0

At Oakland, California, Kyle Kendrick pitched eight strong innings, allowing just four hits in the longest start of his career, to help Philadelphia end a season-long six-game losing streak with a victory over Oakland.

Chase Utley, batting second for the first time this season, snapped out of a slump with a 4-for-5 performance as the first-place Phillies finally gained ground in the NL East for the first time in nearly two weeks.

Dodgers 5, White Sox 0

At Los Angeles, Eric Stults pitched his first career complete game and capped a three-run fourth inning with a sacrifice fly, leading Los Angeles over the American League Central-leading Chicago White Sox.

Stults (2-0) scattered four hits, struck out three and walked one. The 28-year-old left-hander was recalled from minor league Las Vegas on June 17 when Brad Penny went on the disabled list with a sore shoulder.

Braves 4, Brewers 2

At Atlanta, Kelly Johnson drove in three runs to back Jorge Campillo, and the banged-up Atlanta Braves rallied to beat the Milwaukee Brewers and avoid getting swept in the three-game National League series.

Run-scoring doubles by Mike Rivera and Rickie Weeks put Milwaukee ahead in the third. Atlanta, which scored two runs in the first two games of the series, tied it in the bottom half on Johnson's two-run double.

Gregor Blanco's RBI single put Atlanta ahead in the fifth, and Johnson followed with an RBI single.

Campillo (3-2) gave up two runs and four hits in seven innings. He had been 0-2 in his previous five starts.

Jeff Suppan (4-6) gave up four runs and nine hits in six inning

Agent: Bonds won't play in minors to spur interest

NEW YORK (AP)—Barry Bonds has no desire to play for an independent minor league team in an effort to spur interest among major league clubs. The indicted career home run leader remains unsigned, even though he batted .276 last season with 28 homers, 66 RBIs and a major league-leading 132 walks.

Just last week, outfielder Jay Gibbons agreed Monday to a contract with the minor league Long Island Ducks of the Atlantic League. Gibbons failed to receive a major league offer after Baltimore released him near the end of spring training.

"He has nothing to prove there," Bonds' agent, Jeff Borris, said Wednesday. "He doesn't need to go to an independent team and hit two home runs a night hoping to get attention to prove that he still has the skills that would warrant him playing at the major league level. His performance in 2007 demonstrates that he's capable of playing at the major league level for the 2008 season."

The players' association expressed concern to the commissioner's office last month over the lack of offers to Bonds and asked for additional information about the offseason's free-agent market. The union, which hasn't filed a collusion grievance, is still investigating, general counsel Michael Weiner said this week.

The commissioner's office maintains that each team has acted independently and that there has not been a concerted effort against Bonds.

Bonds raised his home-run total to 762 last year, seven more than Hank Aaron's previous record. The San Francisco Giants, Bonds' team since the 1993, decided not to re-sign him.

Bonds was indicted late last year on charges of lying when he told a grand jury in 2003 that he didn't knowingly use performance-enhancing drugs, and a trial is scheduled to start next March 2 in San Francisco.

Teams have shied away, not wanting to deal with the glare of attention Bonds would bring. The outfielder, who turns 44 on July 24, has been offered by Borris to all 30 teams for a prorated share of the $390,000 minimum.

Borris said Bonds even would play for free—offering to donate whatever salary he receives to purchase tickets for children.

"The fact that no team in Major League Baseball has made an offer for Barry even at the minimum salary has created a level of suspicion that is currently being investigated," Borris said.

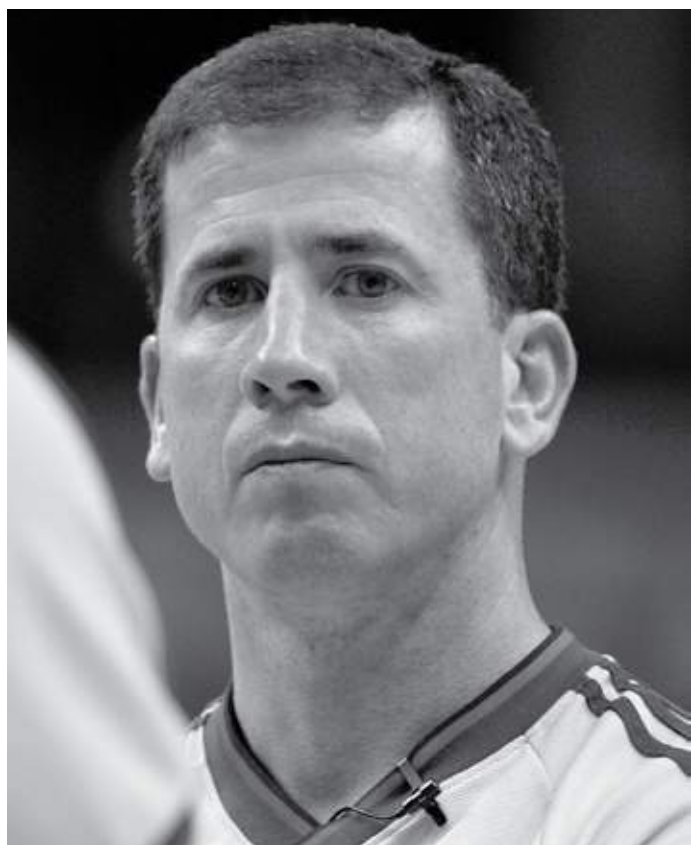
"Let's look at the facts. Barry performed admirably in 2007. Barry is healthy. Barry has been offered at the minimum salary and Barry's trial date is in March of 2009, so there would be no interruption of the 2008 season. It defies explanation as to why he is not employed in 2008 with a major league club."

Judge doubts NBA request for restitution from ref

NEW YORK (AP)—A federal judge cast doubt Wednesday on the NBA's demand that disgraced referee Tim Donaghy pay nearly $1.4 million in restitution, saying he might not have to foot the bill for an internal review of refereeing done in the wake of the league's gambling scandal.

"Is it even recoverable?" U.S. District Judge Carol Amon asked of the $516,971 tab for a law firm that interviewed 57 NBA referees as part of the internal investigation.

The judge, at a hearing in federal court in Brooklyn, ordered the NBA to produce more documents to support the claim before she makes a final decision on whether Donaghy must pay the $1.4 million as part of his punishment when he's sentenced on July 14. She also criticized the league for not seeking the sum until June, nearly 10 months after Donaghy pleaded guilty to felony charges of taking cash payoffs from gamblers.



AP

In this April 10, 2007 file photo, NBA official Tim Donaghy talks with another official during a timeout in a basketball between the Washington Wizards and New Jersey Nets in Washington, D.C.

"This comes very late in the game," she said.

The NBA has argued that Donaghy, by admitting he bet on about half the games he officiated for three seasons beginning in 2003, owes the league roughly half his wages for that period: $504,719. The league also claims he should pay back $72,593 for the 16 games on which he provided tips to gamblers during the 2006-2007 season.

Other costs the league wants repaid: $750 it spent on sneakers for the referee, $4,500 for complimentary tickets he received over the years and other miscellaneous items.

The judge questioned the calculations, telling NBA lawyer Paul Shechtman, "I think there's a serious issue as to whether you're entitled to anything beyond the 2006-2007 season."

Shechtman argued that Donaghy's own betting and dealings with gamblers "comprised a scheme in which we were victimized from beginning to end."

Defense attorney John Lauro countered that the criminal case "had nothing to do with conduct prior to the 2006-2007 season." He also said the NBA's internal review found that Donaghy earned his pay honestly in the earlier seasons.

"No games were rigged," he said. "He called the shots the right way."

Besides possible restitution, the 41-year-old Donaghy faces up to 33 months in prison. He left court without speaking to reporters.

Donaghy's lawyer has accused the NBA of seeking to financially "destroy" his client for clouding the recently completed NBA finals with fresh accusations that the league routinely encouraged refs to ring up bogus fouls to manipulate results to protect ticket sales and television ratings.

The allegations—contained in court papers arguing that Donaghy deserved leniency for voluntarily disclosing corruption—include one instance in which referees rigged a 2002 playoff series with bad calls to force it to a revenue-boosting seven games.

Though the papers didn't name the teams involved, only the Los Angeles Lakers-Sacramento Kings series went to seven games during those playoffs. The Lakers went on to win the championship.

NBA commissioner David Stern has called the allegations baseless, saying Donaghy was only "singing" to get a lighter sentence.

Shaq loses another badge for raunchy Kobe rap

BEDFORD, Va. (AP)—Shaquille O'Neal's raunchy rap in which he mocked former teammate Kobe Bryant is costing him another of his lawman badges.

Bedford County Sheriff Mike Brown said Wednesday that he has asked the Phoenix Suns center to return a badge he was given for his work with the southwest Virginia county's Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.

Brown says O'Neal's likeness also will no longer be used to promote Operation Blue Ridge Thunder, a unit of the department that O'Neal worked with in investigating Internet predators. O'Neal served as a reserve deputy for the sheriff's department from 2004 through the end of 2007.

The decision comes one day after a sheriff in Arizona asked O'Neal to return a special deputy's badge because of language he used in the rap.

The freestyle rap was recorded and posted at TMZ.com.

Bobcats acquire No. 20 draft pick from Nuggets

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—The Charlotte Bobcats wanted to load up on draft picks. The Denver Nuggets were happy to sit out the entire draft.

The Nuggets traded the 20th pick to the Bobcats on Wednesday in exchange for a future, protected first-round pick. The Bobcats, who also hold the ninth pick on Thursday, may now get a chance to address needs at center and point guard.

The Nuggets, meanwhile, will have no picks on Thursday. Denver, which was swept in the first round of the playoffs by the Los Angeles Lakers, had already traded its second-round choice to Seattle.

Not having a first-round pick saves the salary cap-strapped Nuggets from having to the pay the luxury tax on a guaranteed rookie contract.

"Tough roster to make. You look at a young guy coming in, where does he go?" said Nuggets vice president of basketball operations Mark Warkentien. "Again, you look at the positions and it's tough finding minutes for young guys."

Denver will get Charlotte's first-round pick next season if the Bobcats make the playoffs. If they don't, Charlotte keeps it. The pick would then be protected by a sliding scale, where Charlotte would retain it if it's in the top 12 in 2010, top 10 in 2011, top eight in 2012 and top three in 2013. Charlotte would have no protection for the pick in 2014.

But the Bobcats are determined to make the playoffs for the first time next season, and part-owner Michael Jordan and new coach Larry Brown will have a chance to improve the roster Thursday night.

The Bobcats could have their eye on 7-foot-2 center Roy Hibbert of Georgetown with the 20th pick. The Bobcats were impressed with Hibbert during a predraft workout earlier this month. Charlotte has a desperate need up front after consistently getting outrebounded last season. Hibbert is expected to go late in the first round.

Charlotte also could take a big man at No. 9, or a point guard if Russell Westbrook of UCLA is still available. The Bobcats have no point guard on the roster after starter Raymond Felton.

Another scenario would be Charlotte packaging both picks to move up from the ninth spot. General manager Rod Higgins said Wednesday the Bobcats had interest in getting a higher pick.

The future first-round picks give the Nuggets more options in future trade talk. Warkentien compared it to walking around with a "loaded gun" during negotiations.

"There is a myriad of possibilities of what you can do with this. We love the flexibility," Warkentien said. "Good businesses remain flexible and we have a lot of flexibility now."

Aunese excited to go to Beijing

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Samoa's Aunese Curreen is using the 2008 Oceania Championships to train for his ultimate dream, which is to compete in this coming September's Beijing Olympics.

And by all indications the 27-year-old middle distance runner's warm-up to the summer sports extravaganza is right on track.

Curreen won the first medal of the biennial event early Wednesday morning when he beat Australia's Brendan Whelan in the Cross Country. He also reset Samoa's national record in the 400m during the 2008 Oceania Grand Prix's final day last Monday.

The Samoan, who has been representing his island nation the past 13 years, said he is glad to be on Saipan taking part in the area championships. Curreen said the level of competition in the Championships is good preparation for the Beijing Olympics.

"I will take part in the 800m in the summer games. The 400m on Monday and the Cross Country today are part of my training. I'm pretty happy about the results," he said shortly after his Cross Country victory at Laolao Bay Golf Resort Wednesday.

"I'm thankful for the supporters and the people of Saipan who are here this morning. It's so early but I'm very pleased for the support not only from Samoa but everybody as well."

Curreen said he is looking forward to competing in the 800m and the 1500m events of the Championships, "they're all part of my training for the upcoming Olympics."

Asked how many gold medals he is expecting to win the Championships, Curreen was noncommittal but said that he likes the conditions here on Saipan.

"[I] ran the national record in the 400m with a 49.52. I didn't expect to run that fast. So I'm not too sure [how many gold medals I will win] but will see what happens. I like the weather here, it's the same as my home country," he said.

Nowadays, however, Curreen doesn't spend that much time in Samoa as he in now based in Aukland, New Zealand, where he trains all year round.

"I have a scholarship at the High Performance Training Center and I'm coached by one of the great athletes from England."

He also reiterated his thrill to go to Beijing and represent his country. "That's my first Olympic Games and I'm excited to go."

DAN KIMBALL
Aunese Curreen topped the 2008 Oceania Championships' Cross Country held early Wednesday morning at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

GOLD

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ter before coming to the venue.

"It was a good race despite the hot conditions. It was so hot that I had to adjust how I normally race. I just took it slow and try to build on it. If my body was OK I would pick the pace up. I've got through it and I was felling pretty good and in the last 800m I picked up the pace a lot. I couldn't see the shadows they were all dropping off and there was only this one guy and I beat him in the Cross Country so I picked up the pace some more."

In the women's 5000m, Guam's Nicolas Layson gave the neighboring U.S. territory its first gold of the Championships by finishing in 21:11.76. She was followed by a couple of Tongans, Malia'Aneta Patolo (23:25.96) and Lata Tuifutuna (25:17.43).

In the field events, Daniel Kilama of New Caledonia continued to dominate the shot put with his 16.76m. Samoa's Stephen Laseu and Kilama's teammate, Mathieu Roulet, took second and third (14.44m and 13.68m).

Fiji's Leslie Copeland took the gold in the javelin with his 67.02m. Silver went to Roulet (66.08m) with the CNMI's Nick Gross bagging silver with his 52.43m.

In the women's shot put, Samoa's Tasele Iva Satupai took gold with a throw of 13.94m followed by Guam's Genie Gierardo (9.79m) and Nauru's Nina Grudler (9.66m).

Fiji's Milika Tuivanuavou came first in the women's javelin (39.36m). The silver and bronze medals went to Tahiti's Perle Buard (39.02m) and Cook Islands' Maki San Lockington (32.70m).

Kiribati, meanwhile, won its first-ever gold medal at an area championships when David Birati topped the men's high jump with a performance of 1.92m. He was followed by Fiji's Emori Sabua (1.86m) and Kristopher Williamson (1.83m).

In the under-18 competition, Guam's Christopher Magtoto struck gold in the men's 3000m with his time of 9:51.88. Solomon Islands' Gregory Foasilafu and the CNMI's Champ Untalan took the silver and bronze with times of 9:51.98 and 11:10.92.

Vincent Lasei of Samoa won the men's discus with his 46.83m with Australia's Travis Ambrum and Cook Islands' Henry Taripo taking second and third with throws of 43.05m and 38.53m, respectively.

New Zealand and Australia finished 1-2 in the men's 4x100 relay with Michael Cochrane, Joel Armstrong, Rory Hofmans, and Alex Jordan timing in at 43.60. Aussies Mason Holm, Dean Searles, Daniel McLean, and Linc Port came in second with a time of 43.88.

Danielle Trevis, meanwhile, added a gold to her Cross Country silver by winning the women's 3000m with her 10:48.28. Solomon Islands' Jessie Andreson, the Championships' youngest competitor at 12 years old, took the silver with her 12:24.86, while Guam's Joni Aguon won the bronze with her 12:32.77.

The women's high jump belonged to New Zealand's Tamara Anstis (1.67m) with Australia's Emily Keehn (1.61m) and Kiwi Kirsten Hurley (1.55m) coming in second and third.

Satupai improved on her open gold medal performance by throwing for 14.27m in the under-18 competition en route to the gold medal. Iesha Beer of Australia was second (12.71) and the CNMI's Jenequa Benavente third (9.53m).

Buard won the javelin with her 38.73m followed by Tamara (33.34m) and Patricia Taea of Cook Islands (31.91m).

In the women's 4x100m relay, New Zealand's foursome of Kelsey Berryman, Tamara, Kathryn Kennedy, and Olivia Blundell took the gold with a time of 50.76, followed by the CNMI's Reylyn Sapong, Ana Tenorio, Jacque Wonenberg, and Liamwar Ranagamar (56.90).

With Day 2 of competitions over, New Zealand continues to lord it over the Championships with an unofficial medal haul of five gold, two silver, and one bronze. Samoa is second with four gold and a silver to its name, followed by Fiji with three gold medals, two silver, and the same number of bronze.

YVONNE

From Page 44

island events in the near future.

Bennett, for her part, said competing against superior athletes really helped her improve her times these past few days.

Along with the 100m record, the daughter of Ambrose and Lilian Bennett also reset her old marks in the 200m (26.26) and 400m (61.34) just this past week.

"It really helps [to go up against elite athletes]. It gives me the motivation to run even harder," she said, adding that the next two days of the Championships would hopefully bring her a medal or two and a few more records broken.

Bennett also took the opportunity to thank her coaches Rangamar, Robin Eugenio, and Tony Ichiou for all the support they have given her the past years.

Bennett also said that this year's Championships is turning out to be a very memorable one, "because I have my home crowd here rooting for me."

Another CNMI teenager currently making heads turns at the Oleai Sports Complex is Jacque Wonenberg, as she currently leads the under-18 women's heptathlon following the end of four events yesterday.

Wonenberg finished first in the 200m sprint (28.03), followed by Tonga's Unaloto Tauki'uvea (29.20), and teammate Liamwar Rangamar (31.41).

She also topped the 100m hurdles (16.83) with Tauki'uvea second (16.90) and Rangamar third (19.69).

Wonenberg also won the shot put with a throw of 8.92m. Tauki'uvea had an 8.68m and Rangamar a 7.45m.

Tauki'uvea took the high jump (1.52m) with Wonenberg registering a 1.31m. Rangamar posted a "NH."

While Bennett and Wonenberg are still looking for their first medals of the Championships, Nick Gross, Champ Untalan, Jenequa Benavente, and the hosts' 18-under women's 4x100m relay team already delivered the hardware for the CNMI.

Gross bagged the bronze in the men's javelin with a throw of 52.43m, while Untalan also won bronze in the 18-under men's 3000m by running it in 11:10.92. Benavente, for her part, finished third in the women's discus by registering a 9.53m.

Wonenberg, Reylyn Sapong, Ana Tenorio, and Liamwar Ranagamar, meanwhile, came in second to powerhouse New Zealand in the relay with a time of 56.90.

The Commonwealth currently is 11th in the medal standings with one silver and three bronze medals.

PHILIPPINE

From Page 44

ketball. They're doing something else but this year they all made a commitment to devote their time to baseball."

He also finds solace that his Big League team is an experienced one with majority of the players having been to the World Series.

"We won it all in Jakarta in 2006 and plus our players from the Senior League makes three-fourths of this team veterans of the World Series."

Asked what his team does best, Laurel said they are a good hitting team and are very good defensively, but added that the chink in his squad's armor is pitching due to the pitch count.

"We may not have the pitching depth and Guam and the CNMI are both good hitting teams. Winning the championship would require some seat-of-the-pants coaching and managing. We should know when to save our best pitcher for another game," he said.

Laurel also hopes his *kababayans* on Saipan would all come out to the Oleai Sports Complex to root for the *Pinoy* teams this coming week.

The Philippines' Big League representative to the Asia-Pacific tourney went unbeaten in five games in the regular season and then defeated Makati in the finals.

ILLAM's Senior League team, meanwhile, also went unscathed in the regular season before beating Tanawan City in the championship.

The ILLAM Juniors also went the same rout, going unbeaten in the regular season before defeating Muntinlupa in the finals.

ILLAM's Major All-Stars, however, will not be making the trip to Hong Kong this year after losing to Tanawan City in the semifinals.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	49	32	.605	_
Tampa Bay	46	31	.597	1
New York	42	36	.538	5 1/2
Baltimore	39	37	.513	7 1/2
Toronto	37	42	.468	11

Central Division

Chicago	42	35	.545	_
Minnesota	42	36	.538	1/2
Detroit	37	40	.481	5
Kansas City	36	43	.456	7
Cleveland	35	43	.449	7 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	48	31	.608	_
Oakland	42	35	.545	5
Texas	40	39	.506	8
Seattle	28	50	.359	19 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	43	36	.544	_
Florida	40	37	.519	2
New York	38	39	.494	4
Atlanta	39	41	.488	4 1/2
Washington	31	49	.388	12 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	49	29	.628	_
St. Louis	45	34	.570	4 1/2
Milwaukee	43	35	.551	6
Pittsburgh	37	41	.474	12
Houston	36	42	.462	13
Cincinnati	36	43	.456	13 1/2

West Division

Arizona	40	39	.506	_
Los Angeles	36	41	.468	3
San Francisco	34	44	.436	5 1/2
San Diego	32	46	.410	7 1/2
Colorado	32	47	.405	8

Yesterday's Games

Atlanta 4, Milwaukee 2
Boston 5, Arizona 0
N.Y. Yankees 10, Pittsburgh 0
Detroit 8, St. Louis 7
San Francisco 4, Cleveland 1
Cincinnati 6, Toronto 5, 10 innings
N.Y. Mets 8, Seattle 2
Tampa Bay 15, Florida 3
Washington 5, L.A. Angels 4
Texas 3, Houston 2
Chicago Cubs 7, Baltimore 4
Kansas City 4, Colorado 2
Minnesota 9, San Diego 3
Philadelphia 4, Oakland 0
L.A. Dodgers 5, Chicago White Sox 0

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

2008 OCEANIA CHAMPIONSHIPS MEDAL STANDINGS

(Unofficial)

Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
New Zealand	5	2	1	8
Samoa	4	1	0	5
Fiji	3	2	2	7
Guam	2	3	3	8
Papua New Guinea	2	1	0	3
Australia	2	4	0	6
Solomon Islands	1	2	1	4
Tahiti	1	2	1	4
New Caledonia	1	1	2	4
Kiribati	1	0	0	1
CNMI	0	1	3	4
Tonga	0	1	1	2
Cook Islands	0	0	3	3
Vanuatu	0	0	1	1
Nauru	0	0	1	1
Norfolk Islands	0	0	1	1
RMI	0	0	0	0
A. Samoa	0	0	0	0
Palau	0	0	0	0
FSM	0	0	0	0

SCHEDULE
FRIDAY 27 JUNE

11am	Men's Hammer Open	Finals
11:45am	Men's Hammer U 18	Finals
12:30pm	Women's Hammer Open	Finals
1pm	Men's Triple Jump U 18	Finals
1pm	Men's 400m Hurdles Open	Heats
1:15pm	Men's 400m Hurdles U 18	Finals
1:30pm	Women's 400m Hurdles U 18	Finals
1:40pm	Octathlon: Men's 110m Hurdles U18	Finals
1:50pm	Octathlon: Men's 110m Hurdles Open	Finals
2:15pm	Women's Long Jump Open	Finals
2:15pm	Women's 400m Sprint Open	Finals
2:25pm	Men's 400m Sprint Open	Finals
2:30pm	Octathlon: Men's High Jump U 18	Finals
2:30pm	Octathlon: Men's High Jump Open	Finals
2:45pm	Women's 200m Sprint U 18	Heats
3pm	Men's 200m Sprint U 18	Heats
3:30pm	Heptathlon: Women's Long Jump U 18	Finals
3:30pm	Heptathlon: Women's Long Jump Open	Finals
4pm	Men's 3000m Steeplechase Open	Finals
4:25pm	Women's 200m Sprint U 18	Finals
4:30pm	Women's Long Jump U 18	Finals
4:30pm	Heptathlon: Women's Javelin U 18	Finals
4:30pm	Heptathlon: Women's Javelin Open	Finals
4:30pm	Men's High Jump U 18	Finals
4:35pm	Men's 200m Sprint U 18	Finals
4:45pm	Women's 800m Run U 18	Finals
4:55pm	Men's 800m Run U 18	Finals
5:05pm	Women's 800m Run Open	Finals
5:15pm	Men's 800m Run Open	Finals
5:15pm	Octathlon: Men's Javelin U 18	Finals
5:15pm	Octathlon: Men's Javelin Open	Finals
5:30pm	Heptathlon: Women's 800m Run Unde	Finals
5:30pm	Heptathlon Women's 800m Run Open	Finals
5:45pm	Women's Discus U 18	Finals
5:45pm	Men's Long Jump Open	Finals
5:50pm	Women's 100m Hurdles Open	Finals
6pm	Men's 110m Hurdles Open	Finals
6:15pm	Octathlon: Men's 1000m Run U 18	Finals
6:15pm	Octathlon: Men's 1000m Run Open	Finals
6:30pm	Mixed Distance Medley U 18	Finals
6:45pm	Mixed Distance Medley Open	Finals

2008 Oceania Championships Opening Ceremony

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Over 300 athletes and officials gather at the American Memorial Park amphitheater during the opening ceremony of the 2008 Oceania Championships Wednesday night.

The Northern Mariana Islands delegation are all smiles while posing for the camera. JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Athletes and official stand during the benediction by Fr. Ryan Jimenez. JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

New Zealand performed their world-famous Haka to the enjoyment of the crowd. MARK RABAGO

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
The names of the 21 Oceania Athletics Association members were held up by volunteers in traditional Carolinian and Chamorro garbs.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
New Zealand brought its under-18 team to the 2008 Oceania Championships.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Guam sent a lean but mean athletics team to the 2008 Oceania Championships.

MARK RABAGO
Dressed as Carolinian warriors, these men seem to be guarding the participants of the 2008 Oceania Championships

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Athletes from New Caledonia and Papua New Guinea join volunteers for this photo shoot.

MARK RABAGO
OAA president Geoff Gardner addresses the more than 300 athletes and officials who attended the opening ceremony.

Aunese excited to go to Beijing

Samoa's Aunese Curreen is using the 2008 Oceania Championships to train for his ultimate dream, which is to compete in this coming September's Beijing Olympics.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Mediate makes the most of his brush with Tiger

Rocco Mediate was told a story about how a father and his 3-year-old daughter were riveted to the U.S. Open, walking from "Dora the Explorer" to watch the 72nd hole when Tiger Woods made a putt to force a playoff.

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Gold rush as competition heats up

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The gold rush began yesterday as the first full day of competition in the 2008 Oceania Championships finally got going at the Oleai Track and Field.

Papua New Guinea's Mae Koime and Fiji's Iowane Dovumatua won the women's and men's race in the 100m—the glamor event of every Championships.

Koime reset her own record in the century dash, as she finished with a time of 11.66, besting the 11.79 she recorded in Apia, Samoa two years ago.

Teammate and closest rival Toea Wisil bagged the silver, coming in second at 11.94, while Fiji's Makalesi Tumalevu took the bronze with her time of 12:39.

Dovumatua, for his part, ran a sub-11 en route to winning the men's 100m in a time of 10.92. Teammate Setaerki Tikosaya and Solomon Islands' Jack Iroga came up with the silver and bronze medals clocking in at 10.99 and 11.07, respectively.

In the men's 5000m, Australia's Brendan Whelan made sure to finish the race this time and was rewarded with the gold medal after checking in at 16:02.19. Tahiti's Tupuhoe Tahi and Teiva Izal came in second and third with times of 16:12.54 and 16:13, respectively.

The 35-year-old Aussie said the conditions were so hot yesterday that he had to drink close to four litters of wa-

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JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Australia's Brendan Whelan broke away from the pack in the final 800m of the men's 5000m in Day 2 of the 2008 Oceania Championships yesterday at the Oleai Track and Field.

Yvonne runs sub-13 in century dash

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

CNMI sprint queen Yvonne Bennett continued her improvement by resetting her own national record in the women's 100m yesterday as the 2008 Oceania Championships entered its second day at the Oleai Track and Field.

After qualifying for the finals with a seventh-best 13.15 in the preliminaries, the 18-year-old incoming senior at Kagman High School sped to the finish line with a lung-busting time of 12.99.

Although, she finished way behind the medal race in sixth place, the 12.99 shattered the 13.13 she recorded last Saturday in the 2008 Oceania Grand Prix.

But more importantly, Bennett's century dash last night allowed her to break the psychological 13-second mark.

CNMI National Athletics coach Elias Rangamar said it was really important for Bennett to run a sub-13 century dash because it means that she is improving.

He added that the 12.99 goes a long way in giving her ward confidence, especially as she prepares to compete in off-

See YVONNE on Page 42

DAN KIMBALL
Yvonne Bennett of the CNMI has so far reset national records in the 100m, 200m, and 400m in the 2008 Oceania Grand Prix and 2008 Oceania Championships.

Philippine teams ready for Regionals

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The Junior, Senior, and Big League all-star teams of the Philippines practiced yesterday at the Dandan and Capital Hill Fields in preparation to the "Road to the World Series" set to unfurl tomorrow at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

All three teams from the Philippines that will see action in the 2008 Asia-Pacific Little League Regional Tournament are from the International Little League Association of Manila, or ILLAM.

The *Saipan Tribune* attended the Big League's practice session yesterday at Dandan Field and the manager of the team's 17- and 18-year-old players, Arsenic Laurel, was the first to admit that his Big League team's chances of advancing to the World Series are 50-50, at best.

"Of all the three teams, our Big League team is probably the weakest in our division. I think the Juniors and the Seniors have even better chances of advancing to the World Series…but we'll see…"

Laurel said last year, his Big League team lost all its games but lost them by only a run each. He hopes to improve on that 0-2 mark in 2007.

"The Big League I think will have a credible showing. We've been playing in the Regionals the past six years. The Guam and CNMI teams have excellent players. Every year that we play them, we learn something new and hopefully this year we will be able to meet that level of play."

Laurel marveled at the Marianas' commitment to America's favorite pastime and how catching, throwing, and hitting baseballs have become sort of second nature to them.

"In Guam and the CNMI, the kids play a lot of baseball. Us, I have five guys here who play soccer the other half of the year. Four guys play bas-

See PHILIPPINE on Page 42

MARK RABAGO
The Philippines Big League All-Stars pose after a break from practice yesterday at the Dandan Field.